

Mr Carter defeated over import tax on oil

President Carter seeking to reinstate
a 10 cents a gallon import tax
on oil has been overridden by both the
House of Representatives. Mr
Carter's defeat but said he could not
press his decision "without expressing
doubt".

Houses kill Bill despite veto

A couple of hours later when
the President's veto message
went before the House of Rep-
resentatives it was greeted with
a mixture of whistles, hisses
and sarcastic comments. The
veto was overridden without
debate by a margin of nearly
10 to one.

During earlier debates in
both houses of Congress on the
draft Bill, opponents of the tax
argued that such a measure
would be highly inflationary
and unpopular during an elec-
tion year. Mr Carter and his
few supporters in Capitol Hill
on this issue said that the tax
would cut American oil con-
sumption by 100,000 barrels a
day, would raise \$10,000m
(\$4,300m) in revenue next year
to help balance the federal
budget.

After today's vote, Senator
Robert Byrd, the leader of the
Democrats in the Upper House,
described the outcome as "un-
happy". Mr Thomas O'Neill,
the Speaker of the House of
Representatives, who also sup-
ported the tax, yesterday urged
Mr Carter to send a signal to
America's European allies that
he was doing everything he
could for energy conservation.
The President's veto "was de-
signed to do just that".

Nevertheless the congress-
sional decision to kill the tax
will undoubtedly make it more
difficult for Mr Carter when
he meets his Western allies in
Venice later this month to dis-
cuss worldwide energy con-
servation.

Mr Reagan mends fences
with Mr Ford, page 5

Heseltine retreat on office auction

By John Witherow

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secre-
tary of State for the Environ-
ment, last night reversed a
decision to auction the govern-
ment-owned headquarters of the
publishers George Allen
and Unwin, and offered to sell
them the building privately.

The change of policy came
after a long struggle by the
publishing house to repurchase
their building in Museum
Street, Bloomsbury, London,
free from competition with big
property companies.

Mr Heseltine's decision will
be seen as endorsing the prece-
dent of the Crichton Down case
of 1954, which established that
the Government should offer
requisitioned property to the
original owner, at market value,
before putting it up for public
sale.

Allen and Unwin tried last
year to repurchase the build-
ing, which was requisitioned
by the Government in 1963 as
part of a site for the extension
of the British Library, now to
be built in Euston Road.

But they were told that the
Crichton Down precedent applied
only to farm land, and that
they had no right to buy the
building privately. The prop-
erty, acquired by the firm in
1914, was put up for auction on
July 3.

There followed a long dispute
between government depart-
ments, including correspond-
ence with Mr Heseltine be-
fore the minister reversed his
decision.

In a letter to Mr Rayner
Unwin, chairman of the firm,
Mr Heseltine said: "Your case
is one which has caused me
considerable concern in that it
raises issues of public policy
going well beyond the indi-
vidual's circumstances."

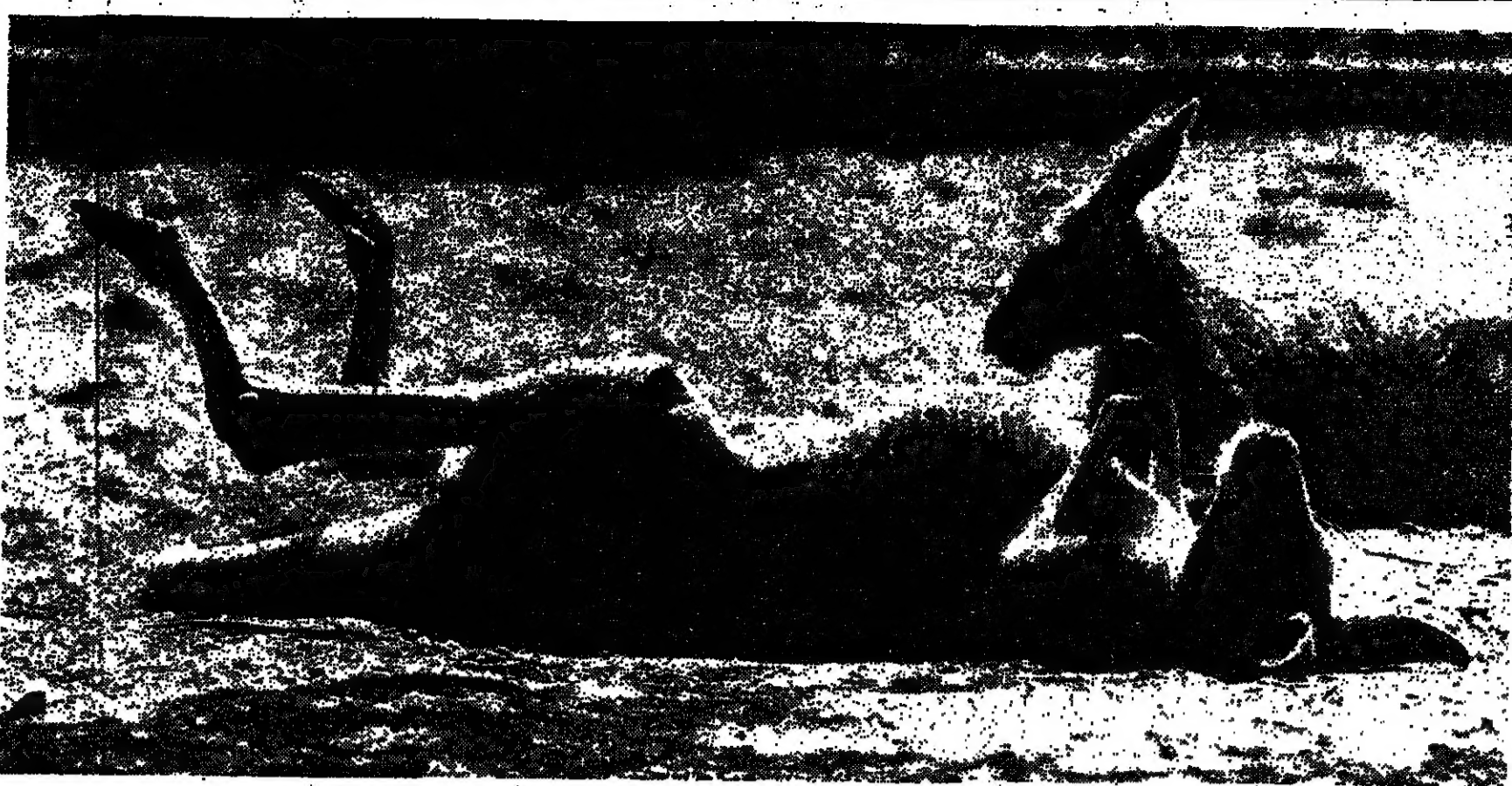
"My consideration of your
individual case has led me to the
conclusion that the right
solution is for you to have the
opportunity to buy back the
property."

This decision
does of course open the whole
complex question of the dis-
posal of surplus public
property."

Mr Heseltine repeated his
statement that the Crichton
Down precedent applied only to
farm land, and said that there
were often more difficulties
with urban property.

But he stated: "I accept
totally that bureaucratic con-
venience cannot be a reason for
denying what are the proper
rights of the owner."

Continued on page 2, col 3



Too hot for hopping: A red kangaroo indulging in a spot of sunbathing at London Zoo yesterday.

Threat to close 'Observer' unless print union accepts changes

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Atlantic Richfield, the Ameri-
can oil company that owns
The Observer, is threatening to
close publication of the news-
paper at the end of this month
unless printing trade unionists
accept production changes.

The sanction of closure has
been raised in negotiations with
the National Graphical Associa-
tion (NGA) on new technology
and a move to a 64-page paper
printed in one shift. But an
original deadline for agreement
of June 15 is understood to
have been put back to July 1.

If a deal has not been re-
ached by that date, the print-
ers' negotiators say, Atlantic
Richfield will call an end to its
£20m investment and sever all
connections.

The shutdown threat was con-
firmed by Mr George Jerrom,
national officer of the NGA.

He said last night: "We are
still negotiating in a responsible
manner with the management in
London to reach an agreement
that will keep the paper on the
streets. If anything, now that
on June 15 it will be the

intransigent decision of Atlantic
Richfield to close it down on
that deadline."

Talks with NGA national
officials took place last week,
and further discussions are
being held in house before
"final" top-level exchanges on
June 30, regarded by the union
as the crucial day of decision.

Mr Jerrom said of the dead-
line: "We don't accept that
sort of thing. We didn't agree
it at The Times. We will
continue to negotiate as long as
possible to reach agreement
with The Observer."

At issue between manage-
ment and the NGA is a shift
from partial midweek printing
and the use of new technology,
"We have all been attempting
over the past months to nego-
tiate an agreement for the pro-
duction of The Observer using
new technology in the compos-
ing room and adapted technol-
ogy in the machine room, us-
ing the normal industrial
negotiations procedures that
we would adopt anywhere
else," said Mr Jerrom.

Agreement has been reached
on manning levels in the
machine room for a new

method of production, which
could involve some Friday
night printing, but a deal on
wage rates is still outstanding.
"The management says the end
of the road has been reached,"
the NGA national officer
added. "We are not convinced
of this."

In the composing room, The
Observer is seeking a shift to
electronic photocomposition but
with a continuing contribution
from traditional hot-metal sys-
tems, and here the union has
put counter proposals.

While no official comment
was forthcoming, it was made
clear in management last night
that Atlantic Richfield felt it
could not go on for ever pour-
ing money into The Observer.
Its losses were reported at
£60,000 a week.

The newspaper's circulation
currently is estimated at
1,100,000 a week.

There is also anxiety that
Atlantic Richfield might sud-
denly decide to cut off its cash
lifeline, and the print unions
are with some difficulty with-
holding their strong criticisms
of the labour relations style of
a multinational oil company.

Interest rates pledge by Mrs Thatcher

By Caroline Atkinson

The Prime Minister and the
Chancellor of the Exchequer
yesterday defended the Govern-
ment's delay in cutting interest
rates. But they confirmed that
interest rates will come down,
as part of the Government's
strategy, even though the timing
of a fall remains uncertain.

In a speech to town hall
accountants, Sir Geoffrey Howe
also delivered a severe warning
to local authorities that they
must control their spending or
the Government will take action
against them.

The Chancellor gave a clear
indication that the Government
intends to hold down public
sector wages in the coming pay
round.

"It is difficult to believe that
the substantial differences in
job security between private
sector and public services em-
ployments have yet been suffi-
ciently reflected in pay differ-
entials," he said.

The batch of ministerial
speeches yesterday, including
the ones from Mr John Biffen,
Chief Secretary to the Treasury,
and Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary
of State for Industry, reaffirmed
the Government's commitment
to its economic policies.

Speaking at the opening of
a new JCI plant in Cheshire,
Mrs Thatcher said that the
Government could not
"reduce interest rates without
regard to what is happening to
money supply".

But she added: "We are
holding the Government's
spending and borrowing. What
we need now is confidence that
money growth is really coming
down. It will then be possible
for interest rates to be re-
duced."

High interest rates meant
that a disproportionate burden
is falling on British industry,
according to the Chancellor.
But higher interest rates have
been necessary to curb the
demand for money.

Ministers called for lower pay
settlements to help bring down
inflation with as little pain as
possible. Mrs Thatcher gave

warning that high pay settle-
ments meant more unemploy-
ment.

She agreed that industry had
lost competitiveness and said
that companies must look to
their own costs. Companies
should not pay out more than
they could afford in wages and
salaries.

Mr John Biffen rejected pay
policy as a means of controlling
inflation. Speaking last night
to a Conservative Party meeting
he said that the Government's
taxation, spending, borrowing
and monetary policies provide
the framework for prices and
incomes to move.

Pay and price controls "deal
with the symptoms and not the
causes of inflation," he said.
However, the Government
should have a view on the
wages of its own employees,
the Chief Secretary added.

Both he and the Chancellor
hinted at tighter control of
public sector wages in the
coming round.

Mrs Thatcher responded to
industry's complaints about the
strong pound by telling com-
panies that they must learn to
live with it. "The level of
sterling is a fact of life," she
said.

"The Government cannot get
it down by buying foreign ex-
change and pumping money
into the system because this
would undermine our whole
strategy for getting inflation
under control."

Local authority spending is
the Achilles heel of the Gov-
ernment's policy to restrict pub-
lic spending and borrowing.
But Sir Geoffrey Howe said
that the Government is not
prepared to sit back and see
local authority spending run
away.

Without spelling out what
ministers might decide to do
to authorities who overpend,
Sir Geoffrey left little doubt
that some action to penalise
them, possibly through selective
reductions in the rate support
grant, from central to local
government, would be intro-
duced if their spending con-
tinued unabated this year.

mission to explore Palestinian issue

timed mission to
possibilities of
Palestinian issue is
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tioned as a party that has to
be associated with any negotia-
tions on the issue.

Most European governments,
have accepted that there is
no point in proposing
a new draft resolution in the
Security Council if the Americans
are going to veto it. But they
reserve the right to come up
with a draft resolution at a
later stage.

Meanwhile, they are acutely
aware of the need to do some-
thing to convince the Arabs
that there is real sympathy for
their case in the West; they
know that statements alone by
now cut little ice.

But few European govern-
ments have any positive ideas
about what they can do, given
that America, as Israel's mili-
tary and economic backer, holds
all the cards in its hands. Con-
sequently, they seem to be seis-

ing gratefully on the British
suggestion of an attempt to
sound the views of all parties,
with a view to preparing the
ground for a solution which is,
in any case, unlikely to be re-
ached overnight.

The object of this mission, as
described by one of its keenest
proponents, is to "ask some
quite fundamental questions,
such as what exactly do you
mean by self-determination? Would
the Palestinians in
Kuwait make part in it?"

The hope is that from the
answers to questions of this sort
would develop "something not
absolutely incapable of resolu-
tion". It is acknowledged that
this would take a long time.
Indeed, that is seen as one of
its virtues: it would give the
Americans time to get "back
in business".

The British approach appar-

Nurses retain their no-strike policy

By Annabel Forrman
Health Services Correspondent

The Royal College of Nur-
sing, which represents 165,000
nurses, reaffirmed yesterday its
policy of not taking industrial
action but agreed to hold a
ballot to find members' views.

At an extraordinary hour
meeting which lasted five hours
council members decided that
there was no industrial action
which would not adversely
affect patients.

Nurses are to be asked to
endorse both the college's policy
against strikes and against
any form of industrial action.
If more than two thirds of
the membership refuse to do
so, the college's annual general
meeting in October will take
steps to amend the constitu-
tion.

Yesterday's meeting was cal-
led after a unanimous vote by
the annual conference in Har-
rogate last month for a ballot.
Nurses were angry about their
pay award in relation to the
doctors'.

The council gave a warning
yesterday that although it was
opposed to industrial action, it
should not be seen by the
Government as a "soft target".

"It is to test the sincerity
of the Government by taking
up its offer of talks to establish
a fair and lasting solution to
the perennial injustice to
nurses' pay," a statement said.
Successive Conservative gov-
ernments "had repeatedly
taken nurses' services for gran-
dstand and exploited their devo-
tion to duty".

Referring to claims by the
Government that both nurses
and doctors had received about
65 per cent over the past two
years, it said: "This Govern-
ment has even gone to the
extreme of putting about mis-
leading percentages in their
pay comparisons in order to
sustain their case."

Miss Catherine Hall, general
secretary of the college, said
that the council had agonized
over industrial action.

The council felt it had no
chance of getting more than
14 per cent in the present pay
round.

It was "outraged" by the
disclosures in The Times yester-
day that the Government had
not been comparing like figures
in the case of doctors and
nurses.

"We think that this is in-
equitable. The figures used by
the Government were adverse
to the nurses and we will be
making our feelings clear to
the ministers concerned."

The Department of Health
and Social Security disclosed on
Thursday that it had compared
the increase in the total nurses'
bill over the past two years with
the increase in the average
doctors' pay. Both came to
about 65 per cent.

But the average nurses' pay
had increased by only \$8.5 per
cent. They received 9 per cent
in April 1979, 19.6 per cent
from Clegg, a cut in hours
worth 6.7 per cent and were
now offered 14 per cent. That
came to \$8.5 per cent when
compounded.

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ciplined were men who had
formed part of the guard of
honour during Zimbabwe's
independence celebrations in
April.

This incident was the most
serious of a series of cases of
indiscipline which have
retarded attempts to amal-
gamate Zania and Zibra
guerrilla units with the regular
security forces. There have
been innumerable cases of
individual guerrillas refusing
to take orders from regular
officers and NCOs. There has
also been continuous friction
between Zania men loyal to
Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime
Minister, and Zibra supporters

of Mr Joshua Nkomo, the
Minister of Home Affairs.

The disappointing progress in
amalgamating the three forces
explains why Mr Mugabe has
asked Britain to send more men
to assist with the training and
integration of the new army.

It was announced yesterday that
the British advisory and train-
ing team in Zimbabwe is to be
built up from its present level
of 58 men to around 130 by
October. The first additional
British personnel are due to
arrive at the beginning of next
month.

The problem of integrating
and at the same time reducing
Continued on page 4, col 7

Rank group to pull out of film production

The Rank Organisation, one
of the pillars of the British
film industry, is ending film
production.

A spokesman for the group
said last night that the decision
was for "economic reasons".

He said: "We have seen
inflation and interest rates
climbing. As a consequence it
now takes too long to recoup
money on films."

Over the past two years Rank
has produced eight films at a
total cost of around £10m. But
last year losses were £1.6m.
Film-making losses, page 17

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Page 2

is jailed
hristie, aged 30, an
1 South African
ist, sentenced to 10
months in Pretoria
prison. He was con-
to pass details of
an energy plans,
avout of the country's
power station, to the
a National Congress
Page 4

Public-owned press seen as union aim

Public ownership of the press "under
democratic management and control"
is to be urged as a constitutional
objective of the largest printing
union; the 205,000-member Society of
Graphical and Allied Trades, at its
policy-making conference this week-
end. Page 2

Rebels free captives

New Hebrides Government officials
and police are being freed by the
rebels on the island of Espiritu
Santo. A broadcast by the French
Resident suggested that French
opposition to the use of force against
the rebels is hardening. He con-
demned the blockade of Espiritu
Santo. Page 5

Genscher battle call

Herr Genscher, the leader of West
Germany's Free Democrats, warned
his party's pre-election congress that
they would have to fight a two-front
battle in October if the party and
the three-party system of the country
were to survive. He was trying to
revive FDP spirits after a recent state
election defeat. Page 4

More companies put up petrol prices

British Petroleum, Esso and other
oil companies have followed the lead
given by Shell and raised wholesale
petrol prices. The increases,
prompted by a rise in crude oil
prices, will put another 3p on a
gallon at the pumps. Page 17

West Indies ahead

England's bowlers persevered, but
dropped catches enabled the West
Indies to edge into the lead by the
end of the second day of the Corn-
hill Test at Nottingham. Richards
was the top scorer with 64 runs out
of 270 for 7. Page 15

Convey risk warning

People on Canvey Island, Essex,
faced a 20 per cent increase in the
chance of accident if a proposed oil
refinery were built, a United States
expert told an inquiry. Page 3

Prince backs skills

Britain had to improve the status of
engineers and encourage those with
skills in manufacturing if industry
was to be regenerated successfully,
the Prince of Wales said. Page 3

Rabbi's detention plea rejected

Appeals by Rabbi Meir Kahane and
one of his associates in the extreme
right-wing Kach movement against
detention orders were rejected by
Israel's Supreme Court. The judge
said the plea in which they were
involved was too serious for the
appeal to be considered. Page 4

Thailand: Three months after its in- stallation the new Government of "national salvation" is beginning to lose some of its gloss.

Page 5

Delhi: Mrs Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, has rejected suggestions that her son Sanjay be appointed chief minister in Uttar Pradesh.

Page 5

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 4, 23, 24; Appointments, 10, 23; Property, 10; Home and garden, 23.

Home News 2, 3; Court 14; Overseas News 4; Engagements 24; Appointments 14; Features 12; Bridge 11; Business 17-21; Chess 11; Letters 13; Obituary 13; Paperbacks 14; Parliament 3; Sale Room 14; Saturday Rev 6-11; Science 14; Seymour 14; Services 14; Shoparound 22; Sport 15, 16; TV & Radio 9; Theatres, etc 8, 10; Travel 11; 25 Years Ago 14; Weather 2.

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THE NEWS

Expert gives warning in oil-fired boast on Canvey

Rael Horsnell, a world expert on oil dispersion and said that while the world's rate of oil spillage would be reduced by the proposed installation of an emergency water spray system on the Shell UK Oil Jetty to limit the escape of ammonia vapour from a 1,000-ton spillage caused by a possible tanker accident.

The cloud, diameter three minutes after the spill had evaporated would be more than two kilometres, he said, and about 100,000 tons of water would have to be sprayed in a few minutes. The mechanical power needed for this system would exceed 250 megawatts, making it totally impractical and prohibitively expensive.

Neighbourhood shelters, which would be proof against a blast wave, fire, flame radiation and toxic gas, should be constructed so that all islanders were within a few minutes' walk. But he doubted whether warnings could be given in time.

A spokesman for United Refineries said that, yesterday's hearing that if planning permission, first granted in 1973, but now under threat of revocation, was rescinded, the company would seek compensation from local authorities. The company had so far spent about £3m without a brick being built. The inquiry resumes next Wednesday.

Ugliest living costs cut by housing

From Christopher Thomas

Living costs in Northern Ireland are being portrayed as excessively high because of excessive fuel and lighting are overall only about 2 per cent more than the United Kingdom average.

The figure emerges from a study by the Northern Ireland Consumer Council, published yesterday. The standard of living, however, is much lower than in the rest of the Kingdom and indeed most regions of the European Economic Community.

Average earnings in Northern Ireland are, for job, similar to the rest of the United Kingdom but because there are more dependants to each employee disposable income per head is 16 per cent lower than the average.

The typical Ulster family spends less of its income on housing, electrical goods and durable household equipment. More is spent on fuel, lighting, clothing, tobacco and food.

Housing is probably 10 per cent cheaper than the United Kingdom average and local authority housing rents, at an average of £4.85 in April 1979, are among the lowest. Rates are 35 per cent below the national average.

Total housing costs, the report suggests, are 20 per cent below the United Kingdom average. Food, drink and tobacco are probably 2.5 per cent cheaper, while transport costs are about 6 per cent higher.

Fuel and lighting costs, according to a complex set of comparisons, are about 40 per cent more than the national average.

100 benefit for nuclear is rejected

Shire bus driver, yesterday that he would receive a £3,000 supplementary benefit grant to clear shelter.

Mr Michael Gervase, aged 37, a jeweller, of Delfield Close, Radlett, Hertfordshire; Mr Leonard Gibson, aged 38, a property developer, of Old Park Ridings, Grange Park, Winchester Hill, North London; Mr Rudolph Aguda, aged 49, a builder, of Cherrydown Avenue, Chingford, Essex; and Mr Renato Aguda, aged 30, a haulage contractor, of Warren Road, Chingford.

They are all accused of robbing Mr Robert Devere of silver bullion worth £3,357,341 at Ripple Road, Barking, London, on March 24.

Mr Gervase was remanded on bail until July 25 on condition that he lives at a place directed by the police.

The other three were remanded in custody for a week.

fine for sailing near munitions wreck

A tanker with a cargo of chemicals took a course for a sunken ship and missed it by 5, a court was told yesterday.

Officials and the passenger ferry and the Isle of Sheppey, to make contact with the Dutch master of the Altum as he approached the wreck of the Montgomery, which 3,000 tons of bombs, and magazines were on board.

Hendrik Harm, aged 41, thought he was in the Thames and not the estuary, Mr Christof, for the defence, was trying to convince a coastal tanker, rek Chisnall, for the on, said that horrified



Lord Olivier at Euston station yesterday when he unveiled a plaque naming an Inter-City locomotive "Laurence Olivier". Mr Harold Macmillan was similarly honoured last year.

Strike threat by teachers in Scotland

From Ronald Faux

Serious industrial action over their pay claim was threatened yesterday by teachers of the Educational Institute of Scotland, meeting at Stirling for their annual conference.

The 500 delegates, representing more than three-quarters of the Scottish teaching force, overwhelmingly resolved to take stronger action unless their salary claim is settled by September 1.

Strike action will continue until their 4,800 teachers withdrawn next week for the equivalent of a one-day stoppage. The 32 local EIS associations throughout Scotland will decide how the action can be carried out most effectively.

That was decided in a series of emergency motions were executive. The conference backed the action which is aimed at attracting attention to the teachers' grievances without losing public sympathy or embarking on an all-out strike, which Mr John Pollock, general secretary, admitted could not be sustained.

The conference also agreed to pay for the action by a levy on members and to seek a reform of the machinery that decides their pay.

Prince urges improved status for engineers

Britain had to improve the status of engineers, and encourage those with skills in manufacturing if industry was to be successfully regenerated, the Prince of Wales said yesterday.

He also criticised the "stick in the mud" attitudes of some universities towards technical courses.

The Prince, president of the Council for National Academic Awards, was opening a one-day conference in London on engineering degree courses.

He told delegates from throughout Britain: "The reason for my interest and concern is based on the simple observation that if we are going to regenerate industry in this country, we must have a sufficient number of well-trained engineers and technicians to do the job."

He said that the status of engineers and technicians was not high enough and that the Government should do more to improve their status and encourage those whose skills are essential to the manufacturing potential of the United Kingdom.

Potato price guarantee is frozen

By Hugh Clayton

The guaranteed price to farmers for potatoes is to be frozen this year, Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said yesterday. The Government has decided to hold the price at its 1979 level of £44.64 a ton because farmers have planted more potatoes this year.

The Government guarantees that price to farmers for their crops even if market prices fall because of a glut. The difference between the market value of crops and the guaranteed price is met from public funds, and the Government has frozen the price in the hope of holding down the cost of meeting the guarantee.

The National Farmers' Union complained yesterday that Mr Walker had not acted fast enough to ban imports of new potatoes from Spain and Greece, for which growers were subsidised at more than £40 a ton.

Spain intended to sell more than twice as many potatoes in Britain this spring as last, it said.

Three out of four motor cyclists under 21 lack full licence, survey shows

By Peter Waymark

Motoring Correspondent

Three quarters of motor cyclists under the age of 21 are driving on provisional licences and 40 per cent are involved in accidents in the past 12 months, a survey by the Automobile Association has found.

The survey shows only one motor cycle owner in five has a full licence, and two thirds of those questioned thought that some form of tuition should be compulsory.

The findings emerge just as the Government is deciding on measures to reduce the high level of motor cycle casualties.

Admitting the number of provisional licences that a driver may hold is a likely step.

The Government wants to encourage more learner drivers to take training, but it favours

Claim of peers' spy link to be raised in Commons

Mr Bruce George, Labour MP for Walsall, South, yesterday called on the Prime Minister to make a statement to Parliament about the alleged spy link of two present members of the House of Lords who were questioned after Burgess and Maclean defected in 1951.

Mr Boyle, author of *The Climax of Treason*, which led to the public exposure of Professor Anthony Blunt as a Russian agent, said on Thursday that the peers were questioned as possible accomplices, but that no conclusive evidence was found.

Mr George, who has previously pressed for an inquiry into the Blunt affair, is tabling a Commons question about the latest disclosure, which emerged at the launching of a revised edition of the book.

"That book had a profound influence on me and the thing that went right through it was the intense desire on the part

Mr Carlisle sees teachers image slipping

Society's confidence and respect for teachers had slipped in recent years, Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education, said yesterday.

He told student teachers at Winchester that clear standards of behaviour, professional behaviour, were expected of teachers.

"The establishment and enforcement of such standards by the profession itself would greatly enhance the professional image of teachers, and incidentally regain for them the confidence, cooperation and respect of society, which I believe has slipped most regrettably in recent years."

Mr Carlisle reminded the students that the quality of education in schools was directly related to the quality of the teachers who taught in them.

Claim of peers' spy link to be raised in Commons

of the establishment to subordinate the public interest to their institutional survival and reputation", Mr George said.

"There are so many skeletons in the cupboard, and it is wrong to say that just because treason took place 25 years ago all should be forgiven."

Mr Boyle also alleged on Thursday that Professor Blunt was responsible through his spying activities for the deaths of many men. However, in a statement issued through his lawyer, Professor Blunt denied he had passed information to the Soviet Union which could have led to any deaths.

He made no mention of Mr Boyle's claims about other highly placed traitors, and the author's belief that he had uncovered 25 Soviet agents who worked for MI5.

Mr Boyle did not name the peers for legal reasons, but said they had reached eminent positions.

Poison found in shellfish

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland has issued a warning to the public not to eat mussels, cockles or whelks collected on the Fife coast.

Scientists at the marine research laboratory in Aberdeen have found that samples of shellfish collected at Pittenweem contained twice the danger level of a toxin that causes paralytic shellfish poisoning.

Manx TT rider killed

Mr Roger Corbett, aged 38, was killed in the Isle of Man TT motor cycle race yesterday when his Kawasaki crashed at Glen Helen, a fast twisting section of the course.

PARLIAMENT, June 6, 1980

Cinemas still required to support the British film industry

House of Commons

The obligation on exhibitors to include a prescribed quota of British or European Community films among the films shown in British cinemas was imperative in protecting the British film industry and enabling films to be shown which might not otherwise be seen, Mr Stanley Clinton-Davis, an Opposition spokesman on trade, said on the report stage of the Films Bill.

The Bill extends the quota obligation to the end of 1985 but also gives power to the Secretary of State for Trade to suspend and reimpose the requirement.

Mr Clinton-Davis (Hackney, Central, Lab) moved an amendment to allow the Secretary of State to extend the provision by statutory instrument beyond 1985 for such periods as he thought fit.

He said the power in the Bill to suspend the quota was contrary to the interests of the film industry, would create a sense of uncertainty, and would not bolster the confidence which the industry needed. The amendment was designed to do something to mitigate the problems besetting the industry.

This was not exclusively a United Kingdom problem. In the United States attendance at the cinema was down by something like 6 per cent. Admission prices were constantly escalating. Against that background it was imperative to retain indigenous quality film-making.

They should seek to share the uncertainties which afflicted the film industry, which represented a threat to employment. Film-making expertise could so easily be allowed to drift away from this country. That would be a disaster to the confidence of the industry.

The least the Government should be saying was that the measure of protection the industry had enjoyed over a period from the quota ought to be continued. It should not have the Sword of Damocles hanging over it.

The quota was supported by substantial sections of the industry. It provided some measure of stability of employment. It ensured a supply of films which had a root in the United Kingdom, enabling the cinema to be used, using that experience to depict this country's way of life.

It was incumbent on the minister to give an assurance to the industry that the quota would not be suspended. The power to suspend in the Bill had caused unnecessary anxiety.

Mr Robert Crier (Keighley, Lab) said it was important for the confidence of the industry that it should know that the minister at least had the power to extend the quota system if at some stage in the future the British industry, which was a minuscule part of the world's film industry, found itself facing total extinction.

Mr Edward Lyons (Bradford, West, Lab) said it was not unreasonable to expect a country with a population of 55 million people should have a film industry of considerable scale and that the life of Britain and its multicultural culture should be occasionally portrayed on the screen.

The quota did not cost the Government anything. It enabled 30 per cent of first feature films in British cinemas to be either British or EEC in origin. Since the EEC provided only about 6 per cent of films shown in Britain that meant the present quota compelled one quarter of cinema time in Britain to be taken up with the showing of British films.

Mr Reginald Eyre, Under Secretary for Trade (Birmingham, Hall Green, C) reminded MPs of the speed with which technological advances were coming in the film industry. Throughout its life the structure of the industry had been constantly changing and adapting.

The way the quota operated might prove inadequate to cope with these changes. The need to come back to the House in 1985 would facilitate any adaptation of the present system and would ensure they did not let the existing arrangements drift on even if they appeared not really to be fulfilling their intended purpose.

The quota did not ensure that good quality British films were shown. Often British films shown to satisfy the quota were so-called "quota" films made in the United Kingdom but scarcely contributing to "national standards."

The very past extension of the life of the quota had been made by primary legislation. To make the quota a statutory obligation was inappropriate.

He sympathized with points about the desire that the British film industry should be able to make films portraying the good aspects and qualities of British life.

The amendment was negatived and the report stage was concluded.

Mr Clinton-Davis, in the debate on the reading of the Bill, in the presence of the Prime Minister, was wet.

The film industry today was riddled with doubt about its future. There was an inadequacy of investment available and an almost total reliance on volatile foreign money.

It was clear that the contribution from the television industry was wholly inadequate having regard to the benefits television enjoyed as a result of the film industry.

Mr Robert Crier (Keighley, Lab) said that the Bill did nothing about making a commitment about the television to the National Film School. The independent television companies in most cases did not have training schemes. Their training scheme was called the BBC. The private sector was making use of the state sector to get a supply of competent technicians.

Mr Eyre said it had never been claimed that the Bill provided a definite answer to the problems of the British film industry, but its acknowledged modesty should not be allowed to deceive its worth and undervalue its considerable importance to the industry.

The Bill was read the third time.

Involving private money in new town development

Mr John Stanley, Minister for Housing and Construction (Tonbridge and Malling, C), moving the third reading of the New Towns Bill, said new town development was largely financed by loans from the National Loans Fund, which were repaid by way of new towns were subject to statutory limit on the amount of borrowing that might be outstanding at any one time.

He expected the present limit of £3,250m to be reached on September 14 when interest payments of £150m to the National Loans Fund were due. Without an increase in the borrowing limit the new towns would be unable to raise the money needed to meet their payment obligations and development programmes would consequently be brought to a halt.

The new borrowing under this Bill would cover major expenditure on the four main areas of new town development: housing, roads, sewerage and other local expenditure. Central housing policy for the new towns was being about a substantial increase in home ownership. In the past there had been far too much emphasis on the provision of rented housing.

Mr Edward Graham, an Opposition spokesman on the Environment (Enfield, Edmonton, Lab) said they would assist the Government to keep the new towns alive and encourage in any way their ability to make their own contribution to the expansion. But the Government had a House adjourned.

It was sympathetic because this matter concerned the lives and livelihoods of many people. The Government was struggling to remove or to reduce the pension entitlements of members and pensioners of the railway pension scheme. It did not affect pension entitlements in any way, nor did it affect the legal obligations of the pension scheme. It expressly preserved those obligations as it was in part a Government policy to worsen the position of railway pensioners.

The Bill was concerned with the arrangements whereby the cost of meeting the pension obligations was divided between the British Rail Board and the railway pension schemes, on one hand, and the Government and the general taxpayers on the other.

The pensions were the responsibility of the British Rail while the Government was committed to give financial support. There was no real prospect of significant overpayments and the amendment was not necessary.

Members and pensioners could only be at risk if the board was in default of its legal obligations. Everybody dealt with nationalized industries on the basis that their credit was as good as the Government's. There was no reason whatever why they should not continue to do so.

The suggestion that there should be an express guarantee was a different matter. There was no realistic prospect that the board would not discharge its obligations. The effect of such a guarantee would be to transfer the obligations to the taxpayers. The amendment was withdrawn and the report stage concluded.

House adjourned, 12.23 pm.

Minister says BR pension fears are groundless

House of Lords

Fears that the Transport Bill might members and pensioners of railway pension schemes were sprung from a misunderstanding of the Government's intentions and were groundless, Lord Bellwin, Under Secretary for the Environment, said when the Bill's report stage resumed.

He said the Government was committed to the British Railways' pension fund. What the Bill did was to change the form, and not the extent of that help.

On Clause 52, Unfunded portion of relevant pension obligations, Lord Morris (C) moved an amendment to provide for either the Government or the administrators of a British Railways' pension fund to be empowered to require a review of the unfunded proportion from time to time.

He said neither this Government, nor a future one would wish the railway pensioner to suffer. British Rail was in a sorry financial state and if it were a private sector company it would be near bankruptcy. If in future it had insufficient financial resources to meet its financial requirements, the Government should give it an undertaking that it would support it.

Lord Mishcon (Lab), for the Opposition, said it was just and sensible to ask for a review. Nobody need be concerned if the Government was roughly correct, but if the Government subsequently found he was miles out, he would expect the Government to make a review. He said the proportions could be rectified.

Lord Bellwin said the Government should be satisfied.

PERSONAL also on pages 23 and 24

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WEST EUROPE

Herr Genscher tries to whip up the fighting spirit of FDP

From Patricia Clough

Freiburg, June 6

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher told his party followers today that the fate not only of the Free Democrat Party (FDP) but also of the three-party system in West Germany will be balanced on a knife's edge in the coming Bundestag elections.

Tactfully, for his small, liberal party hopes to continue its coalition with the Social Democrats (SPD) after the election—he made it clear that they will have to fight the main battle on two fronts. One will be against the Democrats led by Herr Franz Strauss, the other against the danger of an absolute majority for the Social Democrats, which now seems far from impossible.

The Social Democrats will, however, have to contend also with a strong left-wing group within the party, whose influence is at present balanced by the more moderate FDP. Their demands for government by the SPD alone would mean "the end of social liberal policy".

Herr Genscher told the FDP's provincial congress here that in his address he was attempting to whip up the party's fighting spirit after its sensational defeat in the recent North Rhine-Westphalia election, which he said it failed to reach the 5 per cent minimum needed for representation.

Despite their poor showing in what amounted to a trial run for the national elections in October, the picture was balanced by the belief that in "knife-edge" situations the public rallies round the FDP. The German voters, experience has shown, prefer the moderating influence of the small liberal party to what Herr Genscher today called a "English-style hot and cold shower" of a two-party system.

Herr Genscher said that unless the FDP made its position perfectly clear, the voters would prefer an absolute SPD majority rather than see Herr Strauss become Chancellor.

Behind his words was the discovery by poll analysts that Christian Democratic voters prefer to change sides and vote for the SPD directly rather than opt for the moderate FDP. This unusual phenomenon in German voting behaviour is due to the personal attraction of Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, who is almost as popular among CDU voters as among his own party followers.

Meanwhile, in Bonn, Herr Strauss sought his own solution to the problem of Herr Schmidt's great popularity by announcing a three-tiered team to lead the party's election campaign.

Officially, the 22 leading figures named will demonstrate the talent of the opposition Christian Democratic and Christian Social Union parties to offer. The need for a team became particularly pressing after Land elections this year have shown that Herr Strauss, on his own, tends to lose rather than gain votes.

What is not said, but clearly implied, is that as part of the team, each member will share the blame with Herr Strauss in the not unlikely event of a defeat.

Humble and obedient servants

by Hugh Stephenson

Saturday Review



Prime Ministers and politicians propose, but when they come to dispose of them, they have to work through the machinery of the permanent Civil Service. This country is unique in the fact that an incoming government is expected to accept as its closest advisers civil servants who were giving politically sensitive advice to its opponents the week before.

It is an extraordinary system and the Civil Service is an extraordinary and a powerful institution. It works on the basis of a constitutional doctrine that does not and cannot correspond to reality. The doctrine is that the country is run by elected politicians and an elected government; that the function of the Civil Service is to provide ministers with information and advice and to present them with a variety of options so that they can come to their policy decisions; and that, once those decisions have been taken, the Civil Service will loyally carry out instructions, even if it disagrees with them. In practice, as every civil servant and every politician knows, and as every incoming government soon discovers, it does not work that way.

In the first place, any institution, above all one made up of such exceptionally able people as the Civil Service, develops a cohesion, continuity, doctrine, loyalty of its own. In the second, the Civil Service is permanent, while ministers come and go, rarely doing the same job for more than a couple of years before moving on or out, or back into Opposition. And, in the third, the volume of business going through the Whitehall machine is so vast and the number of ministers so few that even an insouciant celebrator can only be aware of the smallest part of it. The art of "handling" the Civil Service, thus, is an art of cerebral inhibition, as any senior bureaucrat.

The arrival of Margaret Thatcher's government in the corridors of Whitehall, in May 1979, was the biggest job that the Civil Service has ever experienced in living memory. For a while the whole Whitehall system almost visibly juddered. The only recent experience was the arrival of Harold Wilson's first government in 1964, when the Civil Service had been required to unthink the habits to which it had become accustomed in 13 continuous years of living with Conservative Ministers.

There had been certain local difficulties and some pyrotechnic episodes on that occasion. The clash between the mercurial Marcia Williams, the Prime Minister's political and personal secretary, and the incumbent Principal Private Secretary at Number 10, Derek Mitchell, resulted in his being banished to the embassy in Washington. Williams, the remainder of his Civil Service career and has become part of the myth and legend of Whitehall. Normally, however, senior civil servants have a highly tuned sense of what is and what is not "politically possible" for an incoming government and an impressive ability to anticipate "political requirements" even before they have been articulated. The letter and the spirit of an incoming party's manifesto and other pre-election commitments are examined and normally well digested in advance. The problem on this occasion was that, as with a majority of Mrs Thatcher's Shadow Cabinet, the majority of senior civil servants neither understood nor believed in the dogmas of the Prime Minister, and those close about her.

It was a curious shock. The civil administrative grade of the Civil Service in Whitehall has come to think of itself, as the guardian and trustee of national continuity, a self-appointed role that in other politically less stable countries is often assumed by the army. It was now faced with an incoming government that purported to believe in an entirely new model of how the economy

worked and how social policy should be conducted. The Prime Minister and a small group of sympathetic ministers were attempting a revolution, albeit a very peaceful and British one. They were arguing in effect that in the decades since the war the Civil Service had failed in its duties as national trustee, that its ideas and advice had proved bankrupt, that now was the time for an entirely new approach.

The instincts of senior civil servants are opposed to revolution and sudden change. The dominant educational influence on those from whom they recruit their successors is still Oxbridge and the liberal arts. The values of that system impregnate Whitehall completely. It is a tradition that gives absolute pride of place to analysis and criticism, rather than to creative and original thought that rates the classic and the art historian above the engineer and the artist; the pure mathematician above the applied mathematician. The grain, indeed, goes even deeper. Senior civil servants, once they have been recruited, for the most part straight out of the universities, live as part of an inbred society, akin in many ways to a monastic order. It has its own rules, priorities and values, quite different from those of other occupations. The civil servant's life is one of order, safety and soundness are the main care of the ambitious man or woman. An entrepreneur can fail in his first project and still become a tycoon. A novelist can write a dozen unpublished works before achieving a literary reputation. But a civil servant who makes one serious mistake in a marked man.

Not surprisingly, therefore, the Civil Service is an inherently conservative institution. What is more, very able men with very clear analytical faculties are understandably prone to think that any new suggestion from outside is unlikely to be of merit, because otherwise they would have thought of it themselves. With Mrs Thatcher's government, the critical even-tempered civil servant was clearly being championed by politicians of very little ministerial experience.

The cocoon that is spun

Given the likely problems of the relationship between the incoming government and the mandarins of Whitehall, it is surprising that Mrs Thatcher did not decide on some radical experiments in the way in which she proposed to operate the machinery of government. When a Prime Minister enters No. 10, on the day after winning an election, the supportive cocoon of the government machine is rapidly spun about him or her. Unless he or she insists on doing things in a new way from the beginning, the permanent officials are bound to dig deeper into their central and privileged positions.

Since, on the face of it, it was unlikely that civil servants would be able to carry out policies for previous Labour and Conservative governments could say a collective mea culpa and set off energetically in an entirely new direction, most Whitehall watchers expected Margaret Thatcher to make sure that there was a substantial injection of new, politically oriented thinking into Whitehall. From the very start, taking official advice, she did the exact opposite. She accepted a strict construction of the division of roles between politicians and officials and she set about playing the game by the rules of the Whitehall rules.

Looking back on her first year in office, this was almost certainly a mistake from her

point of view, and one which reduced the impact of the policies she was trying to get across. It made her administration in that first year curiously insensitive to the political context in which it had to operate. It partly explains the difficulty, which by the spring of 1980 she was admitting was damaging politically, of "getting the message across to the people". It certainly explains the feeling, abroad in Conservative circles by the late summer of 1979, that the Civil Service was somehow obstructing the Government's will.

Mrs Thatcher's first surprising decision was to reduce the size of the non-Civil Service policy unit within Number 10 and substantially to change its role. Under both Wilson and Callaghan, this policy unit had been run by Bernard Donoughue, a political scientist from the London School of Economics. He had direct access to the Prime Minister and a staff that included five and nine. Its function was to ask politically motivated questions and provide politically sensitive advice to the Prime Minister, in part to supplement and in part to act as a check against the information and advice coming through the normal Civil Service machine. Donoughue's influence had been considerable, increased by the fact that the whole of Whitehall, in giving the political advisers to individual ministers in Whitehall departments, it provided a kind of informal information system, reaching out from Downing Street through the whole of Whitehall. It gave the Prime Minister extra non-Civil Service eyes and ears.

It was widely expected that the Donoughue job under a Thatcher government would go to Adam Ridley, a 38-year-old economist. Donoughue's influence was this assumption. But when Donoughue, clearing out his office on the morning after the election, left him a friendly note and a well-worn bottle of whisky. He told him that the note was not the best because the job went instead to John Hoskyns, a 51-year-old, ex-soldier, who had built up and then sold a successful computer consultancy company. He had been introduced to Keith Joseph and Margaret Thatcher some three years before, through the Centre for Policy Studies and had become an increasingly close adviser to Mrs Thatcher in the run-up to the election, particularly on the broad strategy of how policies should be presented. To the annoyance of some Eton boys, Mrs Thatcher had invited Hoskyns to attend meetings of the Shadow Cabinet before the election. During the election itself, he was much involved in the tactical campaign decisions and, in writing her speeches.

The Hoskyns policy unit, however, was to be a different animal from his Labour predecessor. It was physically removed to a more remote part of No. 10 and Donoughue's old office was occupied instead by David Wolfson, the nephew of Sir Isaac Wolfson, founder of Great Universal Stores who had come to Mrs Thatcher's attention when he was advising the Conservative Central Office on

the use of computers, and whom she took to No. 10 as her "chief of staff". Wolfson's office became the main conduit by which papers, ideas and requests intended to by-pass the Civil Service machine and the official private secretaries could be got to the Prime Minister. In that sense Wolfson became at once a key figure at Mrs Thatcher's court. But he was not content as such with the formulation of policy. Indeed the very fact that within a matter of months a senior official described him as "pure gold" was evidence that the Civil Service saw him as an ally and not as a threat. No civil servant ever called Marcia Williams "pure gold" while Harold Wilson was Prime Minister.

The need for more advisers

In addition Mrs Thatcher had accepted from the start a decision to reduce the number of special and political advisers available to ministers. The Civil Service has always disliked political advisers since 1944, de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, published in 1835; and, of course, the old testament of the new economics, Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*, first published in 1776 though available, it was indicated in a more recent Penguin edition.

It was an unenviable start, but it was not to last long. By the middle of June his senior civil servants were confident that they had got the guru under control. During the Whitehall arguments about the public spending cuts that preceded the June budget, Sir Keith had been brought round to defending almost all the department's spending programmes. Even with industrial subsidies, the argument was that they were necessary because they were available in virtually all our competitor countries seemed to prevail.

Events turned out rather differently at the Treasury. There the assumption by officials was that the incoming Treasury team could not possibly adhere to its doctrinaire, pre-election positions once the facts of life had been explained. The shock of the first six months was the discovery that they did indeed intend to carry through a controlled "test to destruction" of the British economy, in order to prove that defeatists within the Treasury were wrong and that there was a possible way, within a reasonably short time, out of the vicious cycle in which we seemed to be caught. And, by itself, the lecture was not exactly sensational. It had been on the subject of "The Changing Problems of Economic Management" and it looked at the way in which, as seen from the Treasury, these problems had become more complex since 1968, when his predecessor Sir William (now Lord) Armstrong gave a lecture which concluded that "modern

talking further until they understood his approach to these problems, which was that the government should avoid, so far as it could, becoming involved in them.

He told them as a tutor to his students to go away and read or read again, certain works which would make it clear how he wanted them to approach industrial policy. His reading list included 29 items. Nineteen of them were pamphlets either from his Centre for Policy Studies, or from the Institute of Economic Affairs. These included contributions by Sam Brittan of the *Financial Times* and Peter Jay, formerly economics editor of *The Times*. Eight had either been written or edited by himself, including a paper entitled *Solving the Union Problem: Is the Key to Britain's Recovery*. There was a short pamphlet by Colin Clark on *The Political Economy of a Christian Society*, and another, attacking the orthodox American economist Professor J. K. Galbraith, by Sir Frank McCadden, who was shortly to help Rolls-Royce in a bitter dispute with the National Enterprise Board. To give balance to the more ephemeral titles on his reading list, Joseph included a few classic works: Schumpeter's *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*, published in 1944; de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, published in 1835; and, of course, the old testament of the new economics, Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*, first published in 1776 though available, it was indicated in a more recent Penguin edition.

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economic policy has clearly been a success". Was he rehearsing the ways in which the "almost Victorian optimism among businessmen, bankers, consumers and government officials" about the future of the economy in the 1960s, reflected in the Armstrong lecture, had given way to discord and disagreement about how to resolve our problems. He had then reviewed the pros and cons of various contemporary suggestions about policy. He did so in the measured terms that one would expect from an experienced and wily civil servant, with many qualifications and without coming to any firm conclusions. Few in his audience at the Johnian Society that evening would have thought that they were witnessing a mandarin putting his job on the line.

But that was precisely what he was doing. It is quite unusual for the head of the Treasury to give lectures in public about economic policy and even more unusual for him to seek publicity for such an event. In this case, his lecture was issued as an official Treasury press release. The inference was drawn, correctly, that Was was doing. It is quite unusual for the head of the Treasury to give lectures in public about economic policy and even more unusual for him to seek publicity for such an event. In this case, his lecture was issued as an official Treasury press release. The inference was drawn, correctly, that Was was doing. It is quite unusual for the head of the Treasury to give lectures in public about economic policy and even more unusual for him to seek publicity for such an event. In this case, his lecture was issued as an official Treasury press release. The inference was drawn, correctly, that Was was doing. 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David Wade

A truly fearful life

The Quest for Corvo, by A. J. A. Symons (Penguin, £1.95)

Frederick Rolfe, who called himself by many names but chiefly Baron Corvo, was considered by nearly all who knew him the most remarkable man they had ever met. He was a man of extraordinary artistic, imaginative and conversational qualities, who failed as a teacher, painter, poet, and author, born in 1880 into a family of Dissenters, he became a Catholic, insisted on his vocation till he died, but was rejected for the priesthood. He took elaborate literary revenge against Roman Catholics and Jesuits in general, and individually against all particular ones he had met.

His life was as weird as his writings. The aesthete who wore fine clothes and manners came to the end of his life surrounded by rats, in the bottom of a sinking boat in Venice, in complete poverty and his clothes unchanged for eighteen months. The Catholic, so pious that he had his brushes blessed before beginning to paint, he is revealed by his letters as a patron of that homosexual underworld which exists in every city, a pitiless seducer of Venetian innocents. The storyteller to whom children listened in wide-eyed delight, was the man who cursed every person who befriended him. Driven by fear and spite, paranoid, insolvent and linguist, his dealings with friends and benefactors were drenched in venomous malignancy, and his writings rancid with libel.

One famous family escaped his corrosive satire the Borgias. In *Chronicles of the House of Borgia* he more or less acted as counsel for the defence, though he himself dissembled: "The writer does not write with the object of whitewashing the House of Borgia; his present opinion being that all men are too vile for words to tell." But he did find Lucrezia a pearl among women, and "these Borgia could no more poison artistically than they could send telegrams."

Corvo died in 1913, and it was not till the mid-1920s that A. J. A. Symons first heard of him, from the usually eccentric Christopher Millard, a literary recluse living in a bungalow in St. John's Wood. Millard was a Jacobite who acknowledged Prince Rupert of Bavaria as his rightful sovereign, but later took to singing the "Red Flag" very loudly in quiet country inns. Millard produced copies of Corvo's letters from Venice to an unnamed correspondent, and as he read them Corvo's eventual biographer felt his hair begin to rise. "Here was an unwitting account, step by step, of the destruction of a soul... an account in language that could not be recognised with the luminous qualities of his prose and imagination. Symons set off on his biographical quest, and in time unearthed every word by Frederick William Seargent, Anne Lewis Mary Rolfe.

His quarry lived a truly fearful life, and died a fearful death. In his own words: "I am rotting in my chains, and Nature only looks in at my

Sybil of the Greeks

The Praise Singer by Mary Renault (Corgi, £1.25)

A sunlit coast, a brilliant blue sky, great mountains coming down to the sea—a fitting background for a writer whose historical novels are set in ancient Greece. But it is a Sicilian sky over the house in Cape Town, where Mary Renault lives. A house that is built down the side of a cliff and at the ground level is a light, bright room, looking with its walls of shelves more like a university library than a home. She has a large, efficient, electric typewriter.

In her heart she has always been a writer ("I started writing when I was eight—it was a Western"), and her most recent book *The Praise Singer* is about the early life of the poet Simonides, in sixth century Greece. Fragments of his work remain, the most famous of which (every schoolboy knows) is the epitaph: "Tell them in Lae, daemons, passer by, here, obedient to their word, we lie." As the poet says in the novel, "They'll remember that."

Simonides, second son of a wealthy landowner in Keos is a dark, ugly boy, far too short, with a birth mark on his face, in fact he has all the physical attributes that the Greeks did not admire. Poor to work on the land, his wonderful talent for making songs is unknown to anyone but the bard, Kleobis. He is a fictional character, but most of the others who through the pages are not—the charming Anakreon, the famous lyric poet, Pisistratos, the Tyrant of Athens and the two sons who succeeded him, Hippasos and Hipparchos, the young dramatist Aeschylus—all are brought to life for us.

prison window, and passes by. Most of icy indifference encloses me, no one touches me where I can feel. I am alone—alone." He died, like the Mayor of Casterbridge, knowing that every man's hand was against him.

John Graham

Fighting back

Prick Up Your Ears, by John Lahr. (Penguin, £1.50)

Joe Orton has all the prerequisites for an easy passage into posterity: he showed promise and modest achievement in his brief career; he was courted by the most fashionable of his time; his personal life was unconventional and he was unashamed; and perhaps most important of all, he died young in gruesome circumstances.

Orton therefore demanded a more than routine biography to make his short life fascinating, his accomplishments worthy of posthumous respect and his wretched death appear more than a lover's off. To this end, John Lahr has done Orton's memory proud. His book, named after the rock play on Orton's prematurely truncated writing schedule, is an unsensational yet wholly gripping account of Orton's world.

The descriptions are so graphic and the scenes of Orton's picaresque love life so grim and grubby that the book is also a weary guide to the less gay side of homosexual life. Lahr does not argue that it was Orton's sexuality which made him such a good dramatist, but adds it to the other qualities which made him an outsider to his own land, capable of seeing the follies and foibles of the English so clearly.

Lahr confirms what Orton claimed, that his work was a ruthless satire on the decaying and viciousness of respectable life. But Orton knew little of respectability. He wrote about what he knew, the trivialities and self-deluding rituals of the working class, based upon his mother, and the uncomfortable agony of the sexual deviant, from his personal experience.

His plays were, rather, a view of British life seen from below or from beyond the pale. Such is a wonderfully sinister comic creation as Inspector Truscott, the mad sleuth from *Look Back in Anger* to fight back against the little men policing the status quo. Other targets were those who believed in notions of sexual normality and the hopeless and inarticulate, whose ranks Orton had only recently left, and the humorous ambiguities of their thoughts and speech.

Lahr does not speculate on whether Orton would transcend this vindictive impetus but concentrates on the known, weaving the events of a shabby life with a most sensible appreciation of his work. It is by his tawdry death that many will remember Orton, hammered on the head by the desperate Kenneth Halliwell, who was jealous, not of other lovers, but of Orton's success.

It is upon this scene, two dead men in Islington, that Lahr builds his life, a far more fitting tribute to the permanent childhood of Orton than his gimmicky funeral: a tape recorder wailed Lennon's *A Day in the Life*, Harold Pinter and Donald Pleasance each read a poem and everyone remained seated as the coffin trundled out of sight on a conveyor belt.

Nicholas Wapshott

Paperbacks of the month



Romance comes down out of hilly woodlands, illustration for *A Dreamer's Tales* by Lord Dunsany, from Sidney Sime (Thames Hudson, £3.95), by Simon Heneage and Henry Ford.

Down the proper path

The English Gardener, by William Cobbett. With an introduction by Anthony Huxley (Oxford, £1.95)

Perhaps you rejoice in the possession of an old walled garden. If not, start from scratch, here first are Cobbett's minutest, most practical instructions for making one that shall be as snug and fertile as the island valley of Avalon. It is not, mark you, for flowers. In 1829, when this book was originally published, they were serious men. So Cobbett's recommended walled patch of just under three-quarters of an acre is for vegetables and fruit. Begin by trenching the land to a depth of three feet, with a spade digging to the bottom. To this kind of thing seems as feasible as laying out the Garden of Eden singlehandedly, yet even in this century Miss Jekyll could calmly recommend digging a pit four feet deep, four feet square, in light soils to suit the Giant Lily.

Though we flinch at the concept as a whole, Cobbett has still much to teach us. Counsels of perfection need not be altogether lost. Though we lack the

gardeners without number, and the weeding women to clean the walks, Cobbett sets us on the proper path. We have seen the light; here and there, bit by bit, we mend our ways. And there are useful, or at any rate promising, tips. He has, for instance, a simple method of testing the viability of seed which he swears is infallible. To one dithering over innumerable packets of old seed of treasures not again procurable this offers hope. And if I were a man to grow potatoes, doubtless I should be pleased to learn that, in order to keep them from rotting, I should start with a seedling that is needed is "the degree of warmth just necessary to keep a baby from perishing from cold."

Only when the book is two-thirds done does Cobbett get to what we should now regard as gardening proper, the use of shrubs and other ornamental plants. He is writing, he says, for "persons who have the means of forming pretty gardens, and who have a taste for making use of these means; a taste for which, I am sorry to say, has been declining in England for a great many years." His list of plants is of interest, as showing something of what was available before the great age of importations from China. But he is evidently not what is now called a plantsman, and he says straight out that his book is not meant for lovers of "curious" plants. He does indeed cite the *Hortus Kewensis* for the best varieties of such things as melons and

strawberries, but that is only because Mr Atton is the King's gardener and "surely that which contents his Majesty, may very well content any of us."

Among the unintended pleasures is the assertion that "it is the moral effects naturally attending a greenhouse, that I set the most value upon." How much better, during a long and dreary winter, he explains, "for daughters, or even sons, to assist, or attend, their mother in a greenhouse, than to be seated with her at cards, or in the blubberings over a stupid novel, or at any other amusement that can possibly be conceived." Cobbett must surely have been thinking of what happened at Mansfield Park!

Jan Stephens

Grand old men

Fit to Lead? by Hugh L'Etang (Heinemann Books, £4.50).

President. This long-drawn-out final illness is the most recent reminder that political leaders may retain office—and power—long after their health has collapsed. The progressive decline in physical and mental capabilities that accompanies ageing is always more obvious to others than to the victim, and more and more organisations are now setting a fixed retiring age. Indeed politics is one of the last occupations which has no age limit, leaving it to the discretion of the electorate and of political advisers to ease grand old men from office before their decline becomes too embarrassingly obvious.

Eleven years ago Dr Hugh L'Etang first drew attention to the fallibility of that system in *The Pathology of Leadership*, which showed how statesmen such as Churchill and Roosevelt had been kept in power far too long by a conspiracy of silence among their family, friends, and advisers. The lessons have not been learnt, however, so Dr L'Etang is amply justified in returning to the same theme in the light of new evidence and new case histories. The instability, eccentricity, pathological malice, and intellectual deterioration that he documents among politicians make frightening reading at a time when technological advances in communications and in weapon systems have speeded the evolution of international crises to a point of hours rather than days or weeks. Tests of mental and physical health may well be unacceptable to our leaders; but as a start we could ask that they accept the need for a mandatory age for retirement.

Tony Smith

The woman question

Diana of the Crossways, by George Meredith (Virago, £2.50) Ann Veronica, by H. G. Wells (Virago, £2.50)

In 1885 George Meredith wrote *Diana of the Crossways*, a novel that finally brought him the literary success that had until then eluded him; 25 years later, H. G. Wells published *Ann Veronica* to the same public reception: shock, much discussion, many sales. The topic both men had chosen was the theme of a young girl trying to free herself from the dominating restrictions of family and society to make an independent life for herself. The authors also share an attitude towards their women heroines. For there is never any doubt that in each case it is the woman who is in the right, struggling against a world of prejudices and conventions she justly deserves. The men are marginal, often comic. The "good" ones are the cardboard silent and trusted heroes of romantic fiction. In fact, H. G. Wells' only champion of his wayward heroine also brought him considerable disapproval. Macmillan refused to publish *Ann Veronica* and the novel was banned by libraries.

H. G. Wells, always an autobiographical writer, relied on his own life for inspiration. Meredith took a famous recent scandal. The model for Diana was a famous London hostess, by then dead, whose husband had brought a divorce action against her, charging Lord Melbourne. The book opens on a beautiful young orphan girl at an Irish ball; all eyes are on her; she is bound for a brilliant marriage. This apparently unalterable future is ruined when her father, Sir Lakin Dunsany, makes a pass at her in the woods. She hastens away to marry the tenant of her father's house, Crossways, a man referred to throughout as "a gentlemanly official."

Diana is not just beautiful; she is fiery, dignified and wilful. What she wants is "external life, action, fields for energies to vary the struggle." Society's attitude is given to Sir Lakin to express: "A woman, Sir Lakin held, was by nature a mute in politics. Of the things that called a radical woman, he could not believe that she was less than monstrous: with a nose, he said, she had a head, a heart, a hatchet, jaws, slatterkin in the gown, slithered, awful."

By the time H. G. Wells was writing society's implacable code had yielded somewhat to a milder and more democratic sense of disapproval. It shapes the book, makes the story lighter, one of winning the vote rather than surviving disaster. Ann Veronica is also beautiful; indeed her beauty is a much repeated theme. She too is resourceful and courageous, daring to defy a crochety father by leaving home to further her studies in science in science, and later to leave home again, this time to live with a married man.

Ann Veronica becomes a sufferer, almost by accident, drawn into it by a coy friend called Miss Miniver, the novel's token ridiculous feminist, who is given to statements like: "Bodies! Bodies! Horrible things! We are souls", and at one point suggests that science will in time teach women to do without men. Yet even Wells' men are perfectly ready to see themselves as coarse brutes. Both Ann Veronica and Diana triumph. Perhaps they had to, to justify the scandal, to prove the rightness of what they were doing. Yet there are Pyrrhic victories; for in the end both are respectably married, with more than a hint that they are happy in submission.

Caroline Moorehead

A sense of period

One Oxford Dictionary definition of Romance is "a tale remote from every-day life"—which is perhaps why the subject is so popular at present; and why so many novelists in the field write historical, or period, stories. Miranda's Seymour's *The Goddess* (Futura, £1.35), a retelling of the fateful love of Helen and Paris—could hardly be further removed from today's realities; and it's certainly very romantic. Not perhaps quite in the Mary Renault class (though Mary Renault had some nice things to say about it when it appeared in hardback) it is simply, but evocatively, written and makes the tale so often told before fresh and accessible. It would make a splendid travelling companion for a holiday in Greece.

I've read all Anna Gilbert's cool, elegant, Victorian mysteries (she's written six so far). I think Remembering Louise

(Coronet, 85p) (her fourth) is one of her best.

The delicacy and precision of her writing for some time disguises the fact that the mystery is central to the plot. Character and place, and small, apparently trivial, incidents dominate the early pages and absorb the attention. Then, gradually, the tension begins to build.

Hester, the narrator, daughter of a jeweller and watchmaker in the small north-country town of Wickborough, is overjoyed when her pretty sister who has lived for many years in Scotland comes home unexpectedly. But from the moment she arrives Louise—sweet, docile and housewifely though she is—is a disrupting presence. Without lifting a finger, or her eyes, she manages (apparently unconsciously) to destroy not only Hester's present contentment but her lovingly-planned future too. But still Hester loves her. And as her world crumbles she worries about the stranger in black whose life she might have saved, but didn't.

A complex, subtle, story; deceptively gentle, ingeniously and beautifully contrived. It gave me immense pleasure.

To be born in the religion- and superstition-ridden town of Aberdeen at the end of the 17th century was not the best start in life; to lose one's mother at birth, be deserted by one's father, and crippled into the bargain seems a recipe for disaster. But Margery Montgomery, a Gloucestershire parson's daughter, grows up down to the minutest detail and with a vividness which makes the characters spring from the page.

Kitt's Hill (Pan 95p) is the first volume in Jean Strubbs' family saga set on the western slopes of the Pennines. It will (she plans) span two centuries and chart the upward progress of a fall-top farm from 1760 onwards.

The story opens with Ned Howarth, a rough but well-established yeoman farmer, laboriously composing a touchingly naive proposal to Miss Dorcas Wilde, daughter of a Gloucestershire parson now reduced to the rôle of companion to her tyrannical Aunt Tabitha. Ned might be "unsuitable" as a husband but at least he's an escape from that awful fate. And, like Margery Montgomery, Dorcas is a born survivor. She even survives the horrendously barbaric wedding to which Ned subjects her, and becomes the civilizing influence on his rustic household.

It's compelling story, convincingly told and with a firm sense of period. I look forward to its sequel.

Elizabeth Grey

Gay nights in Gotham

Dancer from the Dance, by Andrew Holleran (Corgi, £1.25)

It is impossible to live only for love and beauty. The inhabitants of Andrew Holleran's dazzling first novel are anything but. Beautiful, chic, they dance the night away, high on Angel Dust, at the club called the Twelfth Floor in an old factory building in downtown New York. It is a classless society, to which money does not count, where the messenger boy dances with the surgeon from Bellevue, the advertising executive with the bank clerk. All are men, and all are homosexual.

This is the story, told in retrospect by an observer, of the beautiful, tall, blond, kind and adored, and his patron Sutherland, an older man, and a "screaming queen", dressed to kill, leader of fashion, philosopher and wit, frequent of the men's room at railway stations and the smartest parties.

There are no women, no children, families that are visited only at Christmas, and who sometimes claim the body after death. Malone discovers his homosexuality with Frankie Oliveri, a working man who leaves wife and children to live with him, and who threatens to kill him when the love affair wanes. All these loves, the "dark angels", French-Sicilian messenger boys, Italian or Mexican Americans, are doomed, as Sutherland knows, and Malone finds out. Years pass in dancing, party going, summers in Fire Island, casual sex in downtown parks, collecting the clothes, the shoes, VD, despair, acidie and death from overdoses.

Those who are offended by sexuality of any kind will detect this novel. It is not a tract for or against the gay world, but a brilliant portrait of a society set in a wonderful and beautiful city.

Philippa Toomey

A classic adventure in eavesdropping across time—Michael Ratcliffe in *The Times*

EMMANUEL LE ROY LADURIE

MONTAIGLOU

The world-famous portrait of life in a medieval village

Now in Penguin £2.50

Philippa Toomey

TELEVISION

son's method of filming a single performance with multiple takes resulted in some of the faithful film records of the stage.

The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean (Monday, BBC 1, 9.25) is a miscellany of stage episodes in the career of John Huston. This fanciful record of a famous Western character played by Huston is a mixture of pleasure, however, notably Ava Gardner as Lillie Langtry. Despite the presence of Olivia and Jennifer Jones, the series (Wednesday, 10.10) makes heavy going of Theodore Dreiser's rambling novel, and leaves the audience, week on week, even emptier enough, and with *The Landlord*, a theatrical early work by Hal Ashby, the real ground is broken. *Shogun* (Friday) who buys an apartment house and finds himself unwillingly involved with the

and Windy, 6.35-7.30 BJ and the Bear
10.15 Film: House That Wouldn't Die
/ Barbara Stanwyck, 11.40-12.40 and

10.15 Better Read. 10.45-11.00 Search
Laidman...11.30-12.00 Public. Office
1.00 pm Home and School. 1.30
Farming Outlook. 2.00 Film: Harry
Black and the Tiger (Stewart Granger)
4.00-5.00 Salvage 1. 7.00-8.45 Har
no Hort. 10.00-10.30 Old People
11.45 Marx. 12.40 am-12.45
Reflections.

As London except: Starts 1.30	Link 11.30-12.00 Public
1.00 pm University Challenge	
Play & Tune 2.00 Ballade E	
Milestones or Millstones 2.45	
Celebrity Snooker 3.30-5.25	
Duberman Gang 7.45-8.45	
Hart 10.00-10.30 Police	
11.45-11.55 Sports Results	

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A black and white photograph of a bottle of Bell's Scotch Whisky and a glass. The bottle is dark with a light-colored label that features the brand name 'BELL'S' and 'SCOTCH WHISKY'. A glass is partially visible next to the bottle.

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 Tomorrow: *La Bohème*.
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COVENT GARDEN 01-340 1066
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 Tickets available for all performances from 10.15 am on the day of performance.

THEATRES

KINGS HEAD 01-235 1916
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 Tomorrow: *The Piano*.
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THEATRES

VICTORIA PALACE 01-834 1317
 Tonight: *The Piano*.
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WINDMILL THEATRE 01-371 5512
 Tonight: *The Piano*.
 Tomorrow: *The Piano*.
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CINEMAS

BRITISH MUSEUM 01-235 1916
 Tonight: *The Piano*.
 Tomorrow: *The Piano*.
 Tickets available for all performances from 10.15 am on the day of performance.

WINDMILL THEATRE 01-371 5512
 Tonight: *The Piano*.
 Tomorrow: *The Piano*.
 Tickets available for all performances from 10.15 am on the day of performance.

Collecting

Tales behind the tiles

This week Richard Dennis opened his exhibition of Pilkington Tiles and Art Pottery at the Upper Chertsey Gallery, 183, Kings Road, London. His exhibition of British studio ceramics are becoming a regular feature on the collecting scene. His first show was of Royal Doulton stoneware, held in 1970 and since then he has been responsible for informative displays of the work of Christopher Dresser, Moorcroft, Charles Vyse and the Manning Brothers. Next year he is planning an exhibition of the lesser known activities of the Wedgwood pottery.

Richard Dennis begins collecting for an exhibition several years in advance, gaining in knowledge and filling in gaps to form a completely representative exposition of a designer or manufacturer's work. Recently he has begun commissioning books rather than catalogues to accompany the information on the collectors; the sale of the book pays him.

He obviously derives enormous enjoyment from discovering the stories and even tragedies behind the objects, interviewing the survivors or their families and unearthing long-lost design books. At Pilkington's he found an old tile pattern book and is delighted that Pilkington's present designers are now looking at it with interest.

He recounts that years ago Ben Weinreb, the book dealer, told him that all dealers are parasites and that he should therefore always try and do something more than merely buy and sell the objects that pass through his hands—even if it is only to wash them.

During the 1920s as tastes veered sharply away from the Victorian love of lavish decoration, the firm accommodated the market with a new style, known as Lapis Ware. The Art Department closed in 1933 but re-opened after the war when, until 1957, Pilkington's produced modern but less spectacular vases decorated in the asymmetrical and rather squiggly style typical of the period.

Richard Dennis was fascinated as a child by balanced piles of tins in grocer's shops and takes great delight in the image of creating a pyramid of Pilkington Pots, carefully ensuring that no one pot is missing from the structure. His present exhibition shows about 50 pots, from the ornate lustre characters designed by Walter Crane to examples



Lustre vase by Mycock (1930). In Pilkington Royal Lustre range.

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Gardening

Water wisdom



A wise old professional gardener once said, "When you have learned how to water you are halfway to becoming a gardener."

The plants draw up as much water as they need and no more. The plastic pots have several holes in the base and are firmly pushed down so that the sand is in contact with these holes.

Some people claim that talking to their plants keeps them happy—the plants I mean, although it may keep the people happy too. Certainly, whether you chat up your plants every day or not, looking at them every morning and if necessary giving them some water goes a long way towards success.

My wife has a way with houseplants. She stands them all, and we have many about the house, on saucers or in cache-pots and pours a little water into the saucer every morning. If the plants have not taken it up by midday, she empties out the remainder.

One could use this technique with plants in a greenhouse or in a sun lounge. It is wise to stand plants either on saucers or to use trays filled with water or pebbles which the plants are kept filled with water. The are kept filled with water. The are kept filled with water.

I like it for covering greenhouse benches because unlike other materials it does not get covered with algae—those slimy growths do not survive on it. This is just as well because our water is rich in algae.

Greenhouse watering is not easy because on hot sunny days plants dry out more quickly than on cool dull days; there is a tendency nowadays to grow plants in smaller pots than our fathers would have used and feed them with soluble fertilizer more frequently. This means they will probably need watering more often.

Plastic pots are now used almost exclusively in nurseries and gardeners are turning to them when their clay pots tend to be replaced. Plastic pots do not dry out as fast as clay pots because water does not evaporate through their sides. Thus the soil in a plastic pot is normally a few degrees warmer than in a clay pot and this is one reason why plants often grow better in plastic pots.

If some plants in a batch are growing in clay pots and others in plastic, great care is necessary to see that they receive only the amount of water they need. This may mean lifting the pots to feel their weight—the best way of deciding whether they need water.

There are various methods of supplying plants in a greenhouse with water automatically or semi-automatically. We have two benches in our greenhouse and a number of trays on shelves filled with coarse sand. These are fitted with the Rogns watering tubes which were the subject of a special feature on May 17. We just plug the hose pipe on to the irrigation lines, turn on the water for about 10 minutes and the job is done.

Also I think many people have tended to sow their French or runner beans earlier, not realizing that in the southern half of England at least, one can still get a good and welcome late crop from sowings made as late as mid-June.

A plant always greedy admitted in our garden is the variegated honesty. It has almost white leaves, lightly tinged with green when they are young, more heavily splashed with green as they age. The flowers are purple and from mid-May to early June help to fill a gap as the early spring flowers fade. Seed is offered by Thompson & Morgan of Ipswich and may be sown now. We only grow the variegated honesty because my wife is afraid that if we grew the ordinary white form, the flowers would be eaten by the slugs.

Clive Barnes/New York Dia

Stylish success

In at least one specific sense Natalia Makarova's triumphant new staging of *La Bayadère* is the culmination of American Ballet Theatre's 40-year history. It is not simply a magnificent achievement, its ultimate importance is the manner in which it once more positively defines the company's continuously stressed function as America's national gallery of the dance.

Most people in the west have only seen the Kingdom of the Shades scene from *La Bayadère*. This has been danced by such companies as the Kirov Ballet, the Royal Ballet, the National Ballet of Canada and, for that matter, by Ballet Theatre itself, in a version by Makarova. The current ballet is a very rare animal. By chance, I happen to have seen it four times in Leningrad, most of them with the matinee, peerless and beautiful Yuri Sviatov as the hero, Solor. It was odd, quaint, and I loved it. There was a card-board elevation of the stage, whirled like dervishes and a carefully preserved air of cobwebbed past. Makarova has frankly had none of this. Her version is straight and direct.

Makarova has reverted to the original Petipa scenario, to give more dramatic credibility, so now, unlike the current Kirov production, the ballet ends with the marriage of Solor to the Princess Gamzatti, in bewildered defiance of his vows to the dead Bayadere, Nikiya. The resulting holocaust involving the destruction of the temple in the final scene, is a magnificently dramatic piece of staging, most effectively lit by Toshirō.

This is a lovely *La Bayadère*. It is authentic. It is Makarova's dramatic feeling. It looks so much like the most conservative must accept Makarova's choreographic rendering of this acceptance is easier by the fact of the new staging gloriously faithful to the original. It has a permanent demand for a brilliant cultural the Ballet Theatre re.

The scenery by Samaritani and the by Aldridge have a style and beauty to be less than heady dress. Solor, first seen at the measure scenic success. Then the dancing. Ballet II obviously reached a peak, and the on like Liszt playing Chopin. Conceivably Natalia

the principal roles and Solor are now the classic partnership world. Certainly they are offered at the bal mere. Superb technique also dance their heart their acting. There is other splendid performance by Makarova. The gorgeous Cynthia Harcourt, convincing as a future ballerina (I saw one), and Dmitriy and John Reza vivaciously as a head-bobronze idol. (They have been these characters' roles.)

Min as the High Priestess, Victor Dardas as Gamzatti's father, has been outstanding. Subsequent casts to be impressive. They included Fernando Patrick Bissell and Kexia as Solor, Jolinda and Marianna Todor as Nikiya, and Mark Hamel and Janet S. Gamache.

This historic and production is precisely 19th century ballet about it. It's a ballet trip into the past.

The winners of the Spring Bank Holiday Crossword Competition are: B. R. Hut, 16 Trent Drive, Thornbury, Bristol; Miss Tomlinson, 33, Nursery Place, Chis Sevenoaks, Kent; H. J. Gawlik, Tighna Farmhouse, Fairburn Urray, Muir of Rosshire.

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No wonder Mr Jenkins waits in the wings

For getting everyone, and well nigh everything, into the act, there is no political act more compelling than the whiff of a party leadership up for grabs. It is what makes the American system so exhilarating, or unnerving, depending on your view. Their way of putting would-be candidates—helping make the party's final choice—to the voter every four years produces a political binge.

We may do things better in producing leaders of experience, at least of Parliamentary experience. But the instincts aroused are the same, however much our politicians nobly deplore the tendency of the press to deal in personalities at the expense of ideas and arguments. The three are of course quite inseparable. And the Americans would have been hard put to compete with the kind of instant precipitation provoked this past week by the rush for the Callaghan succession.

The Labour leader, of course, has given not the slightest sign of giving up. Suddenly beset by challenges both personal—as with Mr Wedgwood Benn—and political, he has been eagerly trying to re-focus attention on the Tories. He clasped the disclosure of Mrs Thatcher's special one-day Cabinet as a godsend, and now promises to do his bit to make such a hooch about his July 16 meeting that it might come to look like the political equivalent of the TUC's May 14. But no one seems to be listening.

At least, not on the Labour side they were not. There, the fact that Mr Callaghan has not given a clear indication whether he is staying or going at the November leadership election has enlivened the chase. Their special one-day conference was clearly not enough. It turned out to be a push, not just for the so-called "rofling" manifesto, but for a crescendo of argument and manoeuvring.

It was not simply that most of the pretenders had their say; it was those deep old issues that have been sending Labour activists for decades that caused a rush of blood to head.

These did not include, note well, the triad of "party democracy" reforms for which Mr Benn crusades—although he sought now to make the most telling link between them. Making a future Labour Cabinet directly accountable to party conference in the manner he wishes could indeed reverse the policy imposition, he presently deplores.

No, it was almost regardless of Mr Benn, that party became this week pursued a hectic reversal of what Labour governments had stood for. The opening shots over incomes policy would have been enough for most men. The failure of the TUC to come to terms in Callaghan's cross, but he defiantly insisted to last Saturday's conference that it was a cross that he would bear until the unions agreed, for there was no electoral redemption without it.

Pay policy could hardly be more topical or pressing, as Mr John Biffen, Mrs Thatcher's close Cabinet ally, reminded Tories yesterday in calling for calm over government and the public sector. But Labour's pretensions seek identity with leader. And so, on Thursday, Mr John Silkin came out for leaving the EEC, no ifs or buts, leaving Mr Benn and Mr Shore pussyfooting by comparison.

Mr Callaghan used to muse that it was one of his real achievements in office to have ended Labour's great EEC quarrel. But it looks very different now with the Little-Englanders incited by the hope of making the EEC a party issue at the next election for the first time. What will Labour's pro-EEC faction say and do?

Mr William Rodgers, for one, has already rebuked Mr Benn for belittling the Labour MPs and bitterly challenged him to resign from Labour's NEC constituency section if he so believes in grass-roots representation. But were the Silkin EEC exit to become conference policy that more than anything else must provoke Labour moderates like Dr David Owen and Mrs Shirley Williams to reconsider a socialist alternative to the Labour Party. No wonder Mr Roy Jenkins is hovering.

And so to the third gut issue—not just the banning of Cruise missiles and rejection of a Polaris replace-

ment, as last week's conference agreed, but now a proposed conference resolution for unilateral nuclear disarmament.

Mr Moss Evans is urging it, and one wonders where Mr Ernest Bevin, Mr Evans's great predecessor at Transport House, would have consigned it. Mr Evans is a bit of a puzzle. He was the supposed moving force behind the calling of the Labour special conference; yet when he was called could make a speech that left hardly a ripple among delegates. Many in the party write him off, perhaps unfairly, as the tool of the hard men in the Transport Workers' Union. Perhaps they believe that unilateralism, which many constituency delegates mumbled, will make people sit up and take notice.

This headlong plunge has not passed entirely without challenge. In addition to speeches by Mr Rodgers and Dr Owen, there was a notable whole-page article in *The Guardian* on the growth-based incomes policy by Mr Roy Hattersley, one of the next generation of challengers. Mr Denis Healey, a restless pretender, with perhaps most to lose, may have more to say when interviewed in *Panorama* next Monday.

But there have been two notable absenteees from the fray—Mr Michael Foot, and the man he said he would support in the leadership election, Mr Peter Shore. The shadow foreign secretary has been very available for

broadcast comment in response to Government policies, but his prudence in the inner party disputes marks him out as a man who believes his time is coming.

Other pronouncements, such as Mr Clive Jenkins's support for Mr Callaghan staying on, take in very few party people, least of all the Leader of the Opposition. The desire of many on the left to hope that delay will finish off Mr Healey's hopes are well recognised.

Mr Callaghan professes to survey it all benignly, as if letting arguments contend, and flowers bloom in the best post-Mao style. He faces a very difficult decision in making up his mind whether to go or to stay would be best for the party. It parallels his decision not to hold a 1978 election.

Tories of course, would be foolish to think that any of this lets them off the hook of current difficulty. The one-day Cabinet is most unlikely to lead to any change of economic policy and the so-called "vets" in the Cabinet know it; indeed the suspicion is voiced among them that they may have been "set up" by the leak of their supposed intentions to try forcing a U-turn. The line afterwards would be, when there was no U-turn, that the vets were worthless after all. The disparagement of the moderate elements in both major parties is a doleful consequence of their leading factions making off for extreme opposing corners.



Lionheart—hoping for the most elusive trophy.

Sportsview

A lionhearted hope of glory

On Wednesday, Lionheart, the latest British challenger for the America's Cup, will be loaded into a container ship at Southampton before setting off on the most important voyage of her short life. Her destination is Newport, Rhode Island and her purpose is to compete for the most difficult sporting trophy to win in the world. Ever since the schooner America came to England in 1851 and won a cup for a race round the Isle of Wight, that trophy has never left the United States.

It is now so much a part of yachting history, and indeed of American sporting achievement, that the periodic attempts to wrest it away have developed into campaigns of rare intensity. For Americans, to lose the cup is unthinkable and when asked whatever could be mounted in its place, a past president of the NYCYC is quoted as saying "The skull of the guy who lost it."

This year four countries, Britain, France, Australia and Sweden, have challenged with Britain's entry coming from the Royal Southern Yacht Club. Such is the present demand for the challenges that the Americans cannot meet every one and it is customary for the challenging yachts to fight it out among themselves for the right to meet the defender. The programme for the elimination races begins at Newport on August 5, with a round robin series in which each yacht will sail against each of the others. The America's Cup races begin on September 16, the best of seven.

So much for the programme; what does it all involve? For everyone taking part, absolute dedication to their cause for a period of about two years. This involves a great deal of time and effort, which can only be provided by the expenditure of vast sums of money. It is money alone which makes a challenge feasible and the amount of money available has much to do with the success of the campaign.

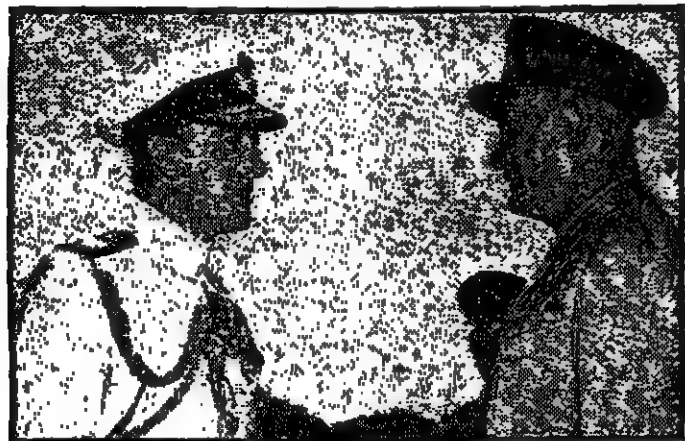
It should be pointed out that although a challenge is on behalf of a club it is always individuals or syndicates who actually pay for the show and organise the effort. The Americans tend to do well in this form of yacht racing because they are willing to put up more money than anyone else.

It is not that their boats necessarily cost more than the others, there are simply more of them. Whereas the four challenging countries have between them, mustered two new boats, Lionheart and France III, and two modified previous challeng-

John Niel

An affectionate memory of the Field Marshal whose funeral was 30 years ago today

Wavell's last journey



Lord Wavell with Lord Mountbatten who succeeded him as Viceroy of India.

Thirty years ago today Lord Wavell's funeral service was held in Westminster Abbey. He had died on May 24 from a swift onslaught of cancer and for two weeks his body had lain in the Norman Chapel of the Tower of London, of which he was Constable.

I had been flown over by the War Office from Berlin, where I was commanding the 1st Battalion of his old regiment, The Black Watch, to take charge of the arrangements, a final duty to one whom I admired more than anyone else in the world; to whom I had been ADC in peace-time at Aldershot 15 years before and on whose staff I had served in every rank from lieutenant to lieutenant-colonel in Jerusalem, Cairo and Delhi.

That day came back very clearly to me when, last August, I found myself sitting in almost the same pew in the south transept of the Abbey, at the funeral service for Lord Mountbatten. Mountbatten had asked to be one of Wavell's pall-bearers but I had to signal him that the Board of Admiralty had reacted violently: their Lordships took the line that as he had reverted to naval duty and was

Music hall comes to Israel

There was a peculiar atmosphere to be sensed around this year's Jerusalem Spring Festival, which ended last week. It reminded me, somewhat uneasily, of another festival, long ago—the one of which Noel Coward adroitly rhymed British with skittish and added that to the wide-world world we must give an "impression of devil-may-care. The people of Israel, beleaguered from within by their rampaging economic crisis and from without by just about everything and everybody, seem to be in much the same position.

They are ready to dress up in the latest casually striking local fashions, brush their hair, and flock to the plays, concerts and ballets. There they applaud in the only kind of theatre they ever seem to achieve: the drink in the intervals; anything but alcohol while they chat animatedly in the marble-floored foyer of the great Jerusalem Theatre or the olive-blossom-scented courtyard of the Khan.

But, if you ask them "What do you think of it all?" they know you don't mean the show. The answers will run the gamut from "disastrous" to "catastrophic" and most of them will go on to honour the Deputy Premier's supreme reluctance to resign, deplore Mr Arik Sharon's latest chauvinist lunacies, censure the national search for epitaphs to describe the Prime Minister (Hebrew is not yet rich enough) and look grave at the terrorist murder of six Jews at Hebron in May.

But still, the festival has been

a success. There were not so many big, splashy companies from overseas as last year, but the overall effect was much more interesting and unusual. That is the point of a festival, of course. These days, when so many top-class companies travel the world, when one can see the best there is in most large cities, if one lives in them long enough, festivals are for staging the unconventional, the experimental, the unique one-offs or off-beats to audiences who would not normally see anything like them.

Thus, a four-and-a-half hour *Hamlet* directed by and starring Steven Berkoff performed without the aid of props, music or scenery; half the gala audience for its opening (which included every known ambassador except ours, despite its being a British company, which caused comment) walked out half-way through, but later it found its true admirers—youth people, mainly, and got good reviews. A similar, also British,

Field Marshal Lord Wavell's coffin being taken from the Tower of London to an RASC launch on June 7, 1950.

Northern Europe), and Archie John, the second and last Earl Wavell, fated to be killed in action against the Mau Mau three years later. The sun glared on metal work and side-arms and the yeoman's haberdashery; the flags of President and Discovery, and of all the buildings on either bank of the river, were at half-mast. The procession was already formed up, with a detachment of Scots Guards, some Household Cavalry, our own pipes and drums and guard of honour and the gun-carriage from The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery. In those post-war days, we were all in khaki, but the field-marshal was carrying his baton. As the launch approached, and I cajoled the distinguished pall-bearers into taking their places, one of the field-marshal's aides suddenly asked me how he should carry his baton. I quickly consulted Lord Wilson of Libya, who said he had no idea, and Lord Montgomery of Alamein, who had not realised until that moment that he had left his baton at home. The others agreed on some ad hoc procedure while Monty put on a convincing act as of one who does not approve of batons on principle. There was a vast crowd in Parliament Square and Victoria Street. The Abbey itself was packed. The only notable absentee was Mr Churchill, and I have never found it in my heart to forgive him for not being present. Mr Attlee, the Prime Minister, had broken off a holiday abroad to attend, but Churchill, although no farther away than Chertwell, had sent General Dowdall to represent him. During the service, our pipe-major, who had lost an eye in Tobruk, played *Lochaber No more* and *After the Battle*, advancing from the Bath Chapel to the altar screen and back again so that his music first swelled and then faded away. After the coffin was carried out through Poets' Corner—not inappropriate for Wavell—to where the hearse, the coaches and the cars awaited him and the escort: they were to take him on the long road journey to his old school, Winchester, where he was to be buried in the Chantry Garth.

At this point in the proceedings there entered an element of force which would have delighted Wavell. The police had arranged to hold the traffic lights from Westminster to Staines to let the cortege through but I was delayed in getting out of the Abbey. When at last I managed to join Major-General Lord Arbuthnot, Wavell's deputy as Colonel of the Regiment, in the last Daimler, we had the exhilarating experience of hurrying through the streets of London, preceded by police outriders on motorcycles, at 30 mph. It was an anti-climax when we caught up the cortege at Shepherd's Bush and had to adjust to its pace.

At Staines police station the Metropolitan Police under the direction of Sir Philip Margeson, a former Scots Fusilier and an old friend of Wavell's, had arranged for us all to have beer and tea and giant beef sandwiches. These were the more welcome since it was now nearly 2 pm and the Jocks had been on parade since some damnable early hour.

Lord Ballantrae

Letter from Devil's Island

Memories of Dreyfus and death row

They are called the Islands of refuge, these three tiny specks of green dropped down in the Atlantic just five degrees north of the equator. The sea breeze cools them, the warm rain freshens them and the rich soil turns seeds into luxuriant vegetation in record time. Were it not for their terrible history the Îles du Salut would seem a tropical paradise.

But that history broods over them even from the shore from which their humpy black outline can be glimpsed near the horizon 10 miles out from the mouth of the Kourou River, to concentrate the mind a sturdy white-washed tower still stands by the river-mouth—the semaphoric post set up specifically to receive the daily health bulletins about the islands' best known unwilling resident, Captain Alfred Dreyfus.

Devil's Island, his home for four years, is possibly the pleasantest of the three, being more exposed to the cool sea breeze. It is also the nearest one to France and the beach remains where the wretched disgraced soldier would sit for hours and stare north-eastwards towards his country, 5,000 miles away. History proved that Dreyfus had been grievously wronged. What he has also shown is that the sentences which sent 80,000 other French convicts to serve

their time in Guyane between 1852 and 1946 were also a grievous wrong to the colony and its people.

The three prison islands are said to have been "hall in paradise" and the memory of the last convict left. The gardens tended so painfully down the decades have gone back to nature. Trees thrust through the crumbling walls and vines, clutch at anyone straying from the little trod paths.

The rot of time and vegetation has meant that it is difficult now to tell the difference between the prison rows and the wardens' cottages. The exiles—prisoners and wardens—are different really only in degree. The convicts were thrown in the sea to encourage the sharks, the wardens were buried under fine tombstones. The wardens' children, dead from yellow fever and malaria, had even finer tombstones.

Despite the tropical sunshine and sparkling waters a sense of evil seems to ooze from the crumbling stones and to escape from the rusting bars. The lean, close-cropped foreign legionnaires who garrison the island provide a suitable convict-like appearance sitting round the tables in the old guardhouse-turned-hotel on the top of the Île Royale.

The hotel takes in guests at 50 francs a night, but somehow it would seem to need a particularly insensitive sort of guest to stay there very long. A stroll down the old death row in the moonlight, over through the guillotine, has now been removed, is the sort of thrill that does not need repeating too often.

Just as deportation spoiled the islands as a tropical paradise, so deportation spoiled Guyane itself as a prosperous country. The trouble was that the convicts were used as cheap though largely unproductive labour. And once they were finished their sentence they were forced to spend an equal length of time in Guyane before they could return to France.

This meant they had to find work, which was at best menial and did nothing to develop the country. The local population, however, became used to being able to hire cheap white labour and the habit remains. Not much farming is done because the Guyanese say, "farming is whites' work." According to a recent survey provided for tourists "the Guyanese are first and foremost natural civil servants who are willing to leave the hard work to Colombians and Brazilians."

The result is that everything, look to Ariane, the EEC com-

munications satellite pr as a kind of 'fickle Lady'. Wooden, tree-size are made like totems. The cinemas in Cayenne are r Ariane and Apollo: Chikilri christened after Ariane, the second trial flight last month, a lot of tears shed.

If Guyane is to be quickly, therefore, the de of the space station seem to be essential. I next flight were to it would need an expensive of will on behalf of the and their European partners keep the project going. "E long, luxurious, jungle co pushing through the stations just as it has the cells on Devil's Island.

On the other hand, might not be too bad a The French technicians space centre are as much exile as their convicted riors of the past and the population is living off the less particularly. Were th leave and the Guyanese, they had to develop their resources, to survive. I provide a surer future of rocket Tower of Babel, ing for the heavens.

Ian Muir

هكذا من الاول



IE FOR A CUT

ates will come down. That is the message government ministers are spreading in an effort to quell the disquiet which is building up about the Government's policy in industry. The debate in the House of Commons is not about the fundamentals of policy; it is about the timing of a move as important as the borrowing requirement is the cause of high interest rates, the interest rates will thus be lower. Indeed, the Prime Minister admitted as much himself.

Why then should the Government seek, effectively, to be selling gilts now at a rate which assumes that it had not succeeded in reaching an agreement with the EEC? It is not as if the refund is some sort of speculative guess of what may be received; the agreement is clear cut and secure. It is thus safe to make Government funding plans and interest rate plans accordingly.

It seems likely that the delay in receipt of the refund from Europe is just a smokescreen to conceal the real reason for postponing a move on interest rates. This is that the authorities remain worried about bank lending to the private sector, which has remained remarkably buoyant. But a significant proportion of this is now going to pay the interest bills of companies; and bank lending will, in any case, decline as the recession gathers force.

There is in any case no reason to focus on one component of money supply, rather than the total money supply itself. Step by step the Government has edged away from a monetary policy and towards a credit policy. Had it been more convinced of the primacy of monetary targets it would have allowed interest rates to fall in response to the slowdown in monetary growth which has been clear for several months.

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This slowdown may be distorted in the near future by the impact of the reappearance in the system of money which was driven out of it by the "corset" of bank restrictions. It has been estimated that this will increase the money supply by two to three per cent. But this does not truly represent growth in the money supply at present; it is simply a case of the statistics catching up with what happened in the past.

The apparently bad figures which are likely over the coming months, are thus no more of an excuse for holding interest rates higher than any of the other reasons put forward. There is no doubt that the persistence of high interest rates makes it easier for the authorities to fund their borrowing needs. Against the background of a Government policy which aims to reduce inflation to perhaps five per cent by 1984, gilt-edged securities offering a yield of nearly fourteen per cent for the next fifteen years are obviously attractive to investors.

But the price of this easy funding will be a heavy burden of interest to be paid by us all over the years ahead. At the same time, the Government ought to remember that industry has funding requirements which need to be met, too. As the Chancellor admitted in his speech at Brighton yesterday, a disproportionate burden of the current policy is falling on industry. It is time for Government to lighten the load.

Rights and wrongs in the Middle East conflict

From Major Saad Haddad

The report from your correspondent Robert Fisk which was made the leading story in your edition of May 21 must have misled both yourself and your readers. It was not an objective piece of reporting, but a reflection of a perhaps frustrated state of mind at United Nations Headquarters in South Lebanon and at the United Nations Secretariat in New York.

For example, the implication of the article is that 15 United Nations soldiers have been killed by the "Christian militia" under my command, two of them "murdered". The facts are the following: During a demonstration in the town of Bint Jebel in mid-April a Lebanese boy of 15 was shot and killed by members of the Irish battalion, and the subsequent killing of two Irish soldiers was an act of revenge by the boy's family. I not only warned the United Nations command of the dangerous situation which had arisen in the area as a result of the boy's death, but I also protected and saved the lives of a number of Irish soldiers threatened with death by relatives of the young man.

It is also untrue that 15 United Nations soldiers have been killed, by my men. Since 1978 45 United Nations soldiers have been killed, and at least one, a French colonel, crippled for life; of these, four were killed in clashes with my soldiers, and the rest by "armed elements" which is the United Nations' term for the Palestinian and Lebanese "progressive" forces which operate in Lebanon under the command of Mr Yassir Arafat. These facts can be verified in United Nations reports made to the Secretary General.

Mr Fisk's report and your headline imply that my forces and myself are the main cause of United Nations frustrations in Lebanon. Leaving aside the untrue, and cheap, allegation that I promoted myself to the rank of Major, I wish to state that I have never sought to frustrate the real mission of the United Nations forces in Lebanon (Unfil), which is to help restore Lebanese sovereignty over the South. It is not my fault that Unfil has encountered two major obstacles to its mission.

The first is that the Lebanese state has so far been unable to assert its sovereignty not only in the areas where Unfil is stationed, but over a large area of the country, including the capital, Beirut. For example, the Lebanese Army has been prevented by the Syrian Deterrent Force, not by the Palestinian "Progressive" alliance, to enter into Beirut or into the commercial centre and heart of Beirut. In fact, the only areas of Beirut where the Lebanese Army has been able to exercise its authority are those where the "Lebanese Forces" or the so-called "Christian militia" use the force and misleading cliché of Mr Fisk and other journalists, exist.

The second obstacle to the mission of Unfil is the fact that no safe line of communication between Beirut and South Lebanon has been established for either UN soldiers or the Lebanese Army. The area south of Beirut until the city of Tyre, including all the area between the Lebanon and the West Bank, is under the control of the Palestinian and their local allies, and it is from there that the area of Free Lebanon under my command is constantly bombed, and its villages and population harassed.

with other UNfil officers, at a series of meetings in Beirut. Major Haddad and Unfil's Chief of Operations. The subject under discussion was the recent incursion of militia armour into the village of Beit Yuhay, which is situated in the UN area of operations. After barely ten minutes of heated debate, Major Haddad was bluntly overruled by an Israeli liaison officer and thereafter made no further contribution to the discussion, nor did he go through the motions of doing so. Thus it was, that in the ensuing two hours the Unfil C.O.O. found himself negotiating with an Israeli colonel on matters affecting the disposition of Major Haddad's own Sherman tanks on Lebanese territory.

It should therefore come as no surprise to anyone that when UN positions and Lebanese villages in the Unfil area of operations came under fire from Major Haddad's forces, as they do almost every day, some of Unfil's officers should feel that there is more to this than meets the eye.

It is this wicked occupation that is poisoning the hearts and minds of Palestinian and Lebanese Jews and destroying all hope of peace between them. It is the occupation that is driving Israel to ever more brutal repression and the Palestinian to ever more violent reaction. The only remedy is to remove the source of the poison and to remove it wholly. This is no case for half-measures which leave the "cancer" behind to spread again its malignant infection. So long as any of these financial Zionist settlers/terrorists remain in the midst in the West Bank and Gaza, there can be no real peace. Their arrogance and selfish greed are beyond reason or restraint. They cannot forsake violence because robbery of their neighbours and denial of their rights are embedded in their peculiar perverted vision of the world. And, because of the strength of Zionism within Israel itself, these financial Zionists are able to summon Israel to their aid when their outrageous conduct has provoked a reaction from their neighbours. That way lies not peace, but perpetual conflict.

Britain and the other EEC governments in their statements on the Middle East have rightly emphasized the need for Israel to end the territorial occupation which it has maintained since the 1967 conflict. That is indeed the only essential requirement for peace. Once that is assured, all other problems will become easier to resolve. But what is needed from Europe now is not just more words.

The Palestinian people suffering from unjust occupation in the West Bank and Gaza look to you for concrete action to bring this message home to America and Israel. And to do so soon before even worse things happen.

Yours faithfully,
SAAD HADDAD,
Commander of Free Lebanon,
Marjayoun,
Free Lebanon,
May 27.

undermine the cohesion of the Western alliance. As far as the West Bank is concerned, it means an explicit recognition that Palestinian autonomy will have to be exercised in a situation which firmly guarantees Israel's security requirements and vital interests in the area. There is room for compromise, but not for an artificial mini-state. That should be frankly recognized as the only way in which stable change can be achieved.

Yours sincerely,
M. KOLINSKY,
University of Birmingham (Faculty of Commerce and Social Science),
Muirhead Tower,
Rigg Road North,
Birmingham,
June 2.

The original blueprint for the Zionist state included the area up to the Litani river; for example the Zionist delegation at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 defined the state they wanted "stretching in the north to the Litani river, in the south to the Mediterranean Sea in the vicinity south of Sidon; and following the watershed of the foothills of the Lebanon as far as Jist El Karoun". Then, too, there was Ben-Gurion's entry in his diary of May 21, 1947: "The Jewish Agency has agreed to the coalition in the Lebanon. Muslim supremacy in this country is artificial and can easily be overturned. A Christian state ought to be set up there, with its southern frontier on the Litani River."

Eight years later Prime Minister Moshe Sharett in his diary wrote: "Israel's meddling today in the Lebanon with uncanny precision: According to Dayan, the only thing that is necessary is to find an officer, be he just a major. We should either conquer his heart or buy him with money. We must agree to declare himself the saviour of the Maronite population. Then the Israeli army will enter Lebanon, will occupy the necessary territory and will create a Christian regime which will ally itself with Israel. The territory from the Litani south to the Mediterranean will be annexed to Israel" (Sharett's Diaries, May 16, 1955).

If this Excellency remains unconvinced, perhaps I may remind him of Moshe Dayan's comment, as reported in the Jewish Chronicle on October 6, 1967: "Israel's borders (sic, post-1967), with the exception of that with Lebanon, are ideal" (emphasis added).

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT SWANN,
3 rue des Volontaires,
Paris,
June 5.

How Czechs found freedom in 1940

From Mr Franta Belsky

Sir, While there are still people who remember a sequence of events leading to one troop's evacuation from fallen France (for there are no official records of it, so far as I know) an episode might be added to the war history of how units of the Czechoslovak Division worked their way to ports of Southern France, wishing to go anywhere where the war against the Nazis could be carried on, and became the last Allies to leave France.

The English Channel was cut off by them; the French campaign was over. We did not choose to comply with the terms of the capitulation and lay down arms, wait for disarmament and "repatriation". Nor only the Wehrmacht but the Vichy authorities did not consider us as POWs but as traitors and agents, and would have handed us over to the Gestapo, although we did not know this at the time.

Meanwhile, a move took place in London: the Czech President Benes (intervening in the government in exile) intervened with Winston Churchill, who instantly ordered ships within call of southern ports to come to pick us up.

All along the way we encountered obstruction and hindrance but in Sète a strange mixture of military and Garde Mobile actually set about disarming us. Fooling them became a well-gamed; we rolled horse blankets round the Czech-made Bren guns and the handy little cavalry carbines with folding bayonets and the splendid French range finders (the like of which the Royal Army never possessed) and smuggled them aboard to see them give later years of service.

Physical attempts were actually made to prevent the evacuation, and here the role of General Faucher should be remembered: a friend of the Czechs and a man striving to mitigate his country's part in the Munich days a year and a half earlier, he used his authority and saved a good many men.

So much water round the jetty of Sète: there is a new generation of French, just as there is of Germans and British.

Yours faithfully,
FRANTA BELSKY,
13 Pembroke Studios,
Pembroke Gardens, W8,
June 4.

LOCK OVER KAMPUCHEA

At six months since troops moved into Cambodia, there are no shadows. It is fully six months since Vietnam's invasion of Kampuchea. Pol Pot government, Heng Samrin. The still in occupation with neither sanctions nor systemic aid, but with the fact that they face a much more active Vietnam.

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calls the rivalry of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, before France intervened. Now that rivalry is revived it is natural for the Thais to look to a powerful ally such as China to redress the balance in their favour. By contrast, Singapore's anti-communism is sterner. Malaysia wishes to keep China at arm's length, and Indonesia has not even restored the diplomatic relations broken with China after 1965.

In continuing to support the Khmers Rouges the Chinese admit that movement's terrible record but believe they have now reformed themselves as a more nationalist and tolerant body. The Thais, saddled with rival groups of Khmer guerrillas (not to mention thousands of refugees), have little confidence in the reform and their Asian colleagues are not convinced either.

Foreign Minister, Mr Nguyen Co Thach, is that an end of any support to the Khmers Rouges by Asian members would mean only a partial withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea. The nub of the problem is Vietnam's suspicion of China. The Chinese believe that Kampuchea and Laos should be independent of Vietnam and by being so would help to limit Vietnamese power. The Vietnamese are convinced that if they do not dominate the two countries, China will.

This deadlock is one that ASEAN has little hope of lessening. What ASEAN can insist on is that Vietnam has no right to dominate either Kampuchea or Laos. Both countries are completely different in race, culture and religion from Vietnam; they have nothing in common except the experience of French rule, which left the Vietnamese with the feeling that they were the natural leaders of Indo-China. Their claim to this role has now been pursued by military power, to the point of near disaster in their internal economy.

In the long run Khmer nationalism will no more accept Vietnamese domination than Afghan nationalism will endure a Russian presence. But at the moment there seems no nucleus of a political society that can give expression to this nationalism, so disastrous has been Kampuchea's suffering in the past five years.

In the passage of legislation which, having been opposed by the Lords, could then be justifiably attacked for not reflecting popular opinion. The effect of the greater power of the Lords on the quality of legislation would, if they were elected by FR, inevitably be to move it to a more serious character and to bring it more closely into line with the broadly held opinions of the electorate. The law would be more widely respected, not less; if it were seen more clearly to correspond to the general will, it is the feeling that controversial legislation is merely temporary imposition without popular sanction—and that it will be reversed as soon as the majority party in the Commons is thrown out—which has lately provided a plausible excuse for contempt of the law.

The public is ready for constitutional change and the reluctance of the Commons to reform itself need not be an obstacle to the overdue reform of the "other place".

BRANDON RUSSELL WILLIAMS,
House of Commons,
June 4.

TV portrayal of Germans

From Mr Rudolf Kortokras

By any other name

From Mr Ewen Montagu, QC

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

LAING

make ideas take shape

Motor industry facing slump with stockpile of 400,000 cars

By Edward Townsend

Britain is in danger of becoming a huge car park of unsold vehicles. Sales in May fell by a third for the second successive month and it is estimated that there are 400,000 new cars now awaiting buyers.

After a buoyant start to the year, when sales appeared to be matching last year's high levels, the United Kingdom market is now sliding towards a slump.

Competition between showrooms is fierce, with dealers offering widespread and big discounts to attract buyers.

In the first five months, sales were down 10 per cent on a year earlier, which, if continued for the remainder of 1980, would result in a total market of about 1.5 million units compared with 1.7 million in 1979. This is in line with the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders' prediction for the year, although some industry leaders believe the market could decline to 1.35 million.

The May figures, published today, show sales of 128,174 against 193,269 a year earlier, and a five-month total of 745,570.

In the first five months, imports—including the "died" imports of BL, Ford, Talbot and Vauxhall—captured 57.39 per cent of sales against 55.3 per cent a year ago.

Of the 400,000 cars lying

unsold, it is estimated that 70,000 are Japanese, a figure that equals the level of Japanese sales expected for the rest of the year.

However, with little expectation of a curtailment of Japanese shipments, British manufacturers led by Sir Michael Edwards, chairman of BL, are becoming increasingly concerned that the Japanese will boost their market share. In the last two months this has been about 12 per cent, against the Japanese industry's voluntary restraint figure of nearer 10 per cent.

Meanwhile, Ford and Vauxhall have announced short time working between now and the summer holidays and lay-offs and redundancies are increasing in the vital components industry.

Reports yesterday said that BL's stock of new cars was down 42,000, significantly less than the 115,000 it had before the launch of its "Buy British" campaign earlier in the year.

Vauxhall stocks were said to number 49,000, equal to about four months' sales, and Talbot had 42,000.

Ford continued to be market leader in May, capturing 32.5 per cent of the market. BL's share dropped slightly to 18 per cent. The state-owned company is expected to drop further this month as the old Marina model is phased out in readiness for the launch in July of the new Marina, called Ital.

As operator for the Halibut group, the BNOC yesterday announced that a second well close to a discovery made in 1976 had revealed hydrocarbons, but it has not yet been tested to know whether the find could prove commercial.

The 1976 discovery two kilometres away was tested at 9,000 barrels a day. The water depth of the new well is a relatively shallow 260ft, but the structure is taking is complex and exploitation of the oil could prove expensive.

Nevertheless, the 211/18 block is proving to be of considerable interest. Mr Ronald Utiger, chairman of the BNOC, mentioned appraisal drilling was being carried out near the Thistle field at the corporation's press conference on its annual report earlier this year. It is thought that these finds could form the next development by BNOC as an operator.

Speculation over the possible size of the finds, however, is premature. BNOC announced it had encountered hydrocarbons in its new well because Tricentrol, one of the Halibut group partners, which is acquiring a listing in the United States next week, has to publish such information to the Securities Exchange Commission.

Normal British practice would have been to delay an announcement until the well had been fully tested. Partners in the Halibut group include Deminor and Charterhouse.

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Lonrho 'wants Fraser on the cheap'

By Catherine Gunn

Sir Hugh Fraser, acknowledged yesterday that Lonrho may launch a takeover bid for House of Fraser if Lonrho loses its attempt to replace with its own men four House of Fraser directors due for reelection later this month.

Sir Hugh, House of Fraser's chairman, said: "I don't doubt very much if Lonrho is in a position to make an offer—but if anyone made a cash offer, the board would have to look at it."

House of Fraser, which owns Harrods in London's Knightsbridge, completes its gradual three-year property revaluation this year. The company is worth "well over £250m", Sir Hugh said yesterday, although on the stock market it is valued at £212m.

Lonrho's assault on the board is seen as the chief issue of the two-year property revaluation between the two groups. "A question of creeping control comes in here", Sir Hugh said.

Lonrho has almost 30 per cent of House of Fraser's shares, and Sir Hugh says Mr Rowland, Lonrho's chief executive, is now trying to gain control of

the group "without paying a penny for it".

"Lonrho" say House of Fraser "needs a change of management."

Sir Hugh said of the Lonrho attempt to force the final net dividend up from 4p to 5p: "I think this was a platform to bring up the question of the other four directors."

He also suspects that it may be a ploy to preempt any defensive move by House of Fraser to put up the dividend if there is a bid. Sir Hugh added that the board would not have done this anyway.

The argument over the dividend started after the board declared that the 4p net dividend, Sir Hugh, says Mr Rowland, who is on the House of Fraser board, suggested an 8p final payout. That would have given a 10p net total dividend which would not have been covered on current cost accounting and only covered by historic earnings. Mr Rowland maintains that the two men came to an understanding that the net final would be 7.5p.

Nevertheless, the board settled for the 6p net payout

for the year which is "covered" historically 24 times.

Mr Paul Spicer, a director of Lonrho, said yesterday that the attempt to replace the four directors would probably not have been made if the higher dividend had been agreed.

Sir Hugh said that in late February Mr Rowland "telephoned the House of Fraser company secretary and left a message for Sir Hugh that he should 'put the blue pencil' through any ideas of expansion. He regarded this as 'interference' in the company."

Mr Rowland, through Mr Spicer, says this claim is "utter rubbish". But House of Fraser claims to have a written record of the call.

Sir Hugh is due for reelection this year and Mr Rowland, as non-executive deputy chairman, is due for reelection next year.

Sir Hugh said: "That is possibly why Mr Rowland did not go against the reelection of myself."

At the annual meeting on June 19 in Glasgow, Sir Hugh is "very confident" of winning the dividend argument because Lonrho would need a 75 per cent majority. But the battle for



Sir Hugh Fraser, yesterday, a question of creeping control.

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Mr Spicer said yesterday that if Lonrho had effective control of the group, he thought it unlikely that the Harrods store, earning two fifths of the group's profits, would be stripped out.

Battery car 'runs for 200 miles at 55 mph'

By Sir Johnstone

Gulf & Western Industries of the United States have developed an electric car with a new design of built-in battery which, so data has been running for 200,000 miles.

The success is the result of experiments which have been conducted by the company over the past decade at a cost of \$16m (nearly £7m). That figure was matched by a similar amount from the United States Department of Energy and the Electrical Power Research Institute. A further \$1m has been allocated to the project by these agencies, bringing the total to \$43m.

The present experiment, using an electric conversion of a Volkswagen Golf, has been going on for more than 10 years. A DC motor drives the vehicle, fed by a battery which fits beneath the car, composed of about 60 cells generating between 35 to 40 kilowatts.

The power is said to be sufficient to drive the car loaded with four passengers over a range of 200 miles at 55 miles per hour with one single overnight charge.

The weight of batteries has always been the critical factor in electric cars. The manufacturers claim that their system is about a third the weight of a conventional lead acid, powered system.

When the cells were activated by the electrolyte, the motor at the rear of the car is powered.

The next stage for the manufacturer is to develop the DC motor which they are currently using into one which may give better performance. At the moment, that performance, Gulf & Western claims, is indistinguishable from that of the same model driven by petrol.

Mr David Judelson, Gulf & Western's president, centre, Dr Milton Hollander, technology vice-president, right, and Mr John Rowan, president of a group subsidiary, seen with the engine unit.

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US unemployment up sharply again

For the second successive month

the United States unemployment rate has risen sharply.

The seasonally adjusted figure was 7.8 per cent of the workforce compared with 7.7 per cent in April and 6.2 per cent in March.

The Labour Department said total employment in May fell 0.2 per cent on 166,000 to an adjusted 97 million after falling 0.5 per cent or 502,000 in April to 97.2 million.

The rate of increase in unemployment seems steady. In May the number unemployed rose 12.2 per cent (89,000) to an adjusted 8.2 million after rising 12.8 per cent or 827,000 in April to 7.3 million.

More men than women became unemployed during May although the percentage of men and women unemployed is now equal.

Teenagers suffered the highest increase in unemployment. The number of teenagers out of work rose sharply to 19.2

per cent in May from 16.2 per cent in April. Black unemployment increased to an adjusted 12.9 per cent.

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BNOC reveals new oil find

By Nicholas Hirst

The British National Oil Corporation has found more oil in the offshore block 211/18 which contains: part of the Thistle field.

As operator for the Halibut group, the BNOC yesterday announced that a second well close to a discovery made in 1976 had revealed hydrocarbons, but it has not yet been tested to know whether the find could prove commercial.

The 1976 discovery two kilometres away was tested at 9,000 barrels a day. The water depth of the new well is a relatively shallow 260ft, but the structure is taking is complex and exploitation of the oil could prove expensive.

Nevertheless, the 211/18 block is proving to be of considerable interest. Mr Ronald Utiger, chairman of the BNOC, mentioned appraisal drilling was being carried out near the Thistle field at the corporation's press conference on its annual report earlier this year. It is thought that these finds could form the next development by BNOC as an operator.

Speculation over the possible size of the finds, however, is premature. BNOC announced it had encountered hydrocarbons in its new well because Tricentrol, one of the Halibut group partners, which is acquiring a listing in the United States next week, has to publish such information to the Securities Exchange Commission.

Normal British practice would have been to delay an announcement until the well had been fully tested. Partners in the Halibut group include Deminor and Charterhouse.

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Wholesale price inflation falls: The latest increase in producer prices of finished goods in the United States was the smallest since September 1977. Producer prices of finished goods in May rose a seasonally adjusted 0.3 per cent, which was a year-on-year rise of 3.6 per cent before compounding.

Money supply down: The nation's basic money supply M1-A fell to a seasonally-adjusted average of \$369,800m in the week ended May 28 from \$370,400m the previous week.

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Building society May receipts in doldrums

By Margaret Stuss

Building society net receipts for May, due to be published next week, are once again in the doldrums at around £200m. This compares with the improvement to £260m shown in the previous month.

The figures which reflect a particularly poor start to the month, are disappointing to building society leaders who had begun to hope that a slightly better trend was emerging, and that they would at least consolidate the April improvement.

Interest rates offered by societies are not proving competitive, despite the hardening in the gilt market last month. But although new money is slow to come in, interest paid to investors is sticking—much to the relief of the societies.

Margins are already under pressure and the situation will be made worse by an expected

increase in the composite rate of tax paid by societies collectively on their investments. This is expected to rise by 11 to 2 points after the triennial statistical investigation by the Inland Revenue.

Although the new composite rate will not emerge until August, it will be backdated to April. The higher tax bill will intensify the pressure on margins and make it virtually certain that most societies will be reporting substantially smaller surpluses (their equivalent to profits) this year.

This should not, however, impede their activities. Most societies, for example, are no longer pushing on with expensive branch expansions as quickly as they were; but many of them will be putting rather less to reserves than they have done in recent years.

The involvement of Pergamon would be consistent with the company's philosophy. It owns 360 journals and has access to many different data bases around the world including biology, medicine, geology and patents.

Infoline has been growing well since last September and has acquired 350 clients, all consulting computer files on patents and chemistry at £350 an hour.

Anyone with an electronic terminal can dial through a normal telephone line

Pergamon move on Infoline

By Our Industrial Staff

Mr Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Press has made a bid for a stake in Infoline, the computerized data service to industry.

The bid is undisclosed but it could be more than £1m.

Infoline was set up several years ago but was only ready to sell its data on patents and business information last year. Its fundings has until now been provided by Derwent Publications, the Chemical Society, the Institution of Electrical Engineers, the Department of Industry and the British Library.

Each partner contributed

£300,000 to the venture and supplied a great deal of the data.

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US set for Chinese investment

From Michael Leapman

New York, June 6. An agreement that could lead to substantial American investments in China was announced here this afternoon by Mr Rong Viren, chairman of the China International Trust and Investment Corporation (CITIC), and Mr David Rockefeller, chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank, at the end of a two-day forum on the Chinese economy.

The plan calls for an exchange of specialists between the bank and CITIC to explore means of mutual co-operation. When the soundings are completed, CITIC and Chase will pursue actively projects for joint economic co-operation.

Chase's merchant banking group is expected to be financial adviser and will help raise funds for the agreed projects. Chase may open an office in Peking and CITIC may open one in New York.

Legally void sale agreement by board of Bamfords

By Philip Robinson

The board of Bamfords

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Grouse

If owner-occupation is still considered a desirable objective, not merely by prospective house buyers but also by governments of whatever political persuasion, then what are we to make of the uncertainty surrounding the ceiling of mortgage tax relief?

The House-Builder's Federation is right to call for clarification from the Government of its curiously vacillating attitude to the limit of tax relief. This remains at the £25,000 it was when the cut-off was first introduced in 1974.

The subsequent ravages of inflation, particularly house price inflation, mean that £25,000 is ludicrously out of date and many more people are being caught in this particular tax trap than was ever originally envisaged. A more realistic ceiling for tax relief today would be £50,000.

In opposition, and noticeably in the run-up to the General Election, the Conservative Party were committed to raising the level of mortgage tax relief. In the early days of office, too, the Conservatives stressed that the £25,000 limit ought to be reviewed.

Since then there has been silence on the part of the Government and much pressure from other quarters, economic and academic, for phasing out or abolishing mortgage tax relief altogether.

Undeniably there are arguments for restricting relief, just as there is a case for saying that it is the essential lubricant to a free-moving housing market. It is becoming increasingly important that the public particularly prospective house buyers, should know on which side of the fence the Government intends to sit.

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



Practical pensions

A better deal for job changers

If you change jobs to advance your career or because of redundancy, dismissal or plain old-fashioned redundancy, you will lose valuable pension rights.

The majority of modern pension schemes are now based on a fixed proportion of final salary—whether it be half your final salary or a more generous two-thirds (the maximum allowed by the Inland Revenue). When you change jobs your pension rights from your old job will be based on your salary at that time; this is likely to be much lower than what you would expect to be earning by the time you retire.

Adding together your deferred pension from your old job and the new pension you could earn with your new one, will not put you on the same footing as if you had stayed with your old employer for the whole of your working life.

This is true whether you decide to take a "frozen" pension with your old employer—in most schemes deferred pensions do not increase in value between the time you leave the company and retirement—or opt to transfer your pension rights to your new employer's scheme (assuming that he has one).

In the latter case employer number one will work out a transfer value he is willing to pay from the pension fund based on contributions so far. Then the second employer works out what level of fixed pension he is prepared to pay out for that particular sum.

The problem with both frozen pensions and transfer values is that a pension fund manager will err on the side of caution in estimating what he will pay out in so many years hence by assuming conservative rates of interest.

If the funds were to prove

insufficient (because of generous assumptions) to meet his guarantee, he would have to make up the shortfall in pension either at the expense of the employer or by a subsidy from the pension fund to the detriment of other pension fund members.

But if you money in the pension fund earns more than the rate used to calculate your benefits on leaving your job, or money transferred to a new scheme earns over and above requirements, you will not normally see any benefit.

This raw deal for those changing jobs has led Mr Harry Verney, managing director of consultants Pension Advisers, to launch a Campaign for Better Pensions, a low-profile operation which nonetheless already has the support of many people who have been financially hurt because of job changes.

"All that is needed," he says, "is a small change in the law. People changing jobs should be allowed to use their transfer payments as a single premium payment into a self-employed pension scheme run by an insurance company. Mr Verney is hoping to get a clause in the Finance Act at Committee Stage.

If he is successful, then rather than accepting a fixed pension on changing jobs, the prospective pensioner would be able to invest his transfer value in a with-profit or unit-linked insurance policy.

Although this might result in a lower guaranteed pension, the money would have some chance of keeping its value in the light of inflation.

The Occupational Pensions Board, which is looking into the subject of transferability of pension rights, is due to report

to the Government next year. But few people, Mr Verney included, believe that it is likely to offer any ready-made solution; and even if it does, there is likely to be a time lag before any action is taken.

Mr Verney has plenty of ammunition for his campaign. Disillusioned people who have got in touch with him include one employee of 18 years standing who at the age of 41 was offered a frozen pension of £1,253 a year after he left, of which only £203 ranked for an increase of 3 per cent a year after retirement. On death after retirement his dependant's pension would amount to £701 a year.

As an alternative he was offered a transfer value of £1,888—which happened to be

exactly what he had personally contributed to the scheme. For this, his new employer was prepared to pay only a fixed £1,206 a year or a dependant's pension of £603.

Neither of these options gives a return of much over 7 per cent—and he could have done much better with an insurance contract.

One problem which could arise from this "simple change of law" which the campaign is advocating concerns contributions to pensions. Company pension schemes and self-employed plans are governed by different sets of Revenue rules. While the maximum pension with a company scheme is related to final salary, the self-employed one is governed by the contributions paid. And

this is certainly seen as a drawback by the Superannuation Funds Office, the Revenue arm controlling pensions.

The success of this campaign would be good news for those changing jobs. It could also result in increased contributions required from those still paying into the scheme. If it results in more and more people taking transfer values then pension funds, which absorb the extra income earned from high rates of interest over and above those guaranteed on frozen pensions, will have to find the extra cash elsewhere.

Sylvia Morris

55 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3LY.



Mr Harry Verney, managing director of consultants Pension Advisers: campaigning for a change in the law.

Round-up

Repayment dates need watching

If you bought British Savings Bonds in 1975 any time between April 15 and October 1, you will shortly be receiving a little note from the Department of National Savings enclosing an application form for their repayment on October 1 this year.

Do not ignore it. If you are the kind of person who is full of good intentions and little action, fill up the application form now and send it off—it is the only way of making sure that you will not be leaving your money in a totally unproductive investment.

British Savings Bonds are being phased out, which means that there are no conversion terms available. Once your bonds mature (when they earn a 3 per cent bonus) and the last interest is received on October 1 for this batch of investors, there is nothing more in the kitty.

Extension terms have just been announced for the 14th issue of National Savings Certificates. The issue has had another year added (from June 17) increasing the value of the certificate from £1.50 to £1.70.

The return on the extra year works out at 10 per cent, equivalent to 14.3 per cent gross for a basic rate taxpayer. This is marginally below the 14.75 per cent gross equivalent yield on current 19th issue.

But that figure applies only if the certificates are held for the full five-year term. If you do not envisage being able to hold on for the full five years, then the extension terms are a better bet than converting to the 19th issue for a short time.

As a general point, when interest rates do begin to fall, be prepared to move quickly to put money into the 19th before it is withdrawn, as it almost certainly will be.

Old age has its benefits—witness National Savings Grannys Bonds. Now Bank of Ireland, with six branches in the London area and more than 10 in the provinces, is wooing the over-60s with its Golden Years Club.

Provided that a minimum of £500 is kept on deposit (which is withdrawable on demand; not at the customary seven days' notice) an extra 1 point interest is earned, bringing the rate to 15 per cent.

Travel

Shopping around for fares

Shopping around with bulging carrier bags to save an extra few pence on butter or marmalade or to take advantage of a special offer can be an exhausting, as well as a rewarding, business. Financially more rewarding but scarcely less exhausting is shopping around for holiday air fares.

By the time one has dialled 28 numbers (some of which are almost permanently engaged) and worked out the intricacies of Apex as opposed to consolidation fares, the bonus of day of the week, instead of struggling to the airport in the early hours, a preference for Gatwick or Heathrow, or Manchester, the departure date options and so on, the mind is reeling. Have a pen and large notebook near at hand.

The chart with explanations of the various fares available should take some of the mystery out of the airlines' pricing policies without removing any of the fun of treasure hunting. This European destinations given are among the most popular for holiday makers seeking sun at this time of year.

My own quest for a couple of flights to Lanzarote, one of the lesser-known Canary Islands, began with a call to the national Spanish airline, Iberia, which offers an "economy" return flight to Arrecife for £378.

This is a day flight offering a flexibility of departure days and would suit a businessman who has to meet certain deadlines. There also has a budget fare (similar to Apex) for £163. A monthly excursion fare, which could also be used for a long weekend, would have cost £225.

I then hunted then switched to the advertisements on the back page of *The Times* and somewhere in the middle of the *Evening Standard*. But even here prices vary enormously. I could have had flights to Arrecife at anything from £136 to £355 (medium) to £272 (low).

Many telephone calls later and suffering from nervous exhaustion, I might have accepted any of these had it not been that we had to travel in the school holiday period, which is a need shared by some 90 per cent of the population it seems.

Finally, when none of the departure dates quite fit in, my companion rang to say he had found a flight from Gatwick to Lanzarote (Arrecife Airport) for £69.

When I called to collect the tickets from Spexes Holidays, which specialises in holidays to the Greek Islands, I found that the tickets were part of a Thomson Holiday charter on a Britannia aircraft. The flight left on time from Gatwick, which is a good deal less crowded and much cleaner than Heathrow, and the one note of economy was in a black plastic tray.

For those who don't want to plan a July holiday in January, the cheaper fares offered by air brokers or non-AITA operators—unkindly called bucket shops—provide a good alternative. (And as tour operators are no longer able to hold their prices firm because of frequent increases in the cost of fuel, there is no longer the same incentive to pay large sums of money in advance.)

The cheaper flights usually offered some six weeks or less before departure—may quite easily be day flights which have been sold off in a block by the tour operator who has failed to fill his charter.

There are also a number of discounts or cheap schedule airline fares, but these are hedged about with restrictions. These discount fares include Apex, which is valid for a round-trip and must be booked and paid for at least one month in advance. On cancellation, part or all of the fare is forfeited.

TT (inclusive tour) fares are those sold to individuals rather

than groups and should be sold with accommodation included. This is not always insisted upon. Indeed some operators, simply to comply with the law, provide basic or dormitory accommodation which the client is not expected to make use of.

Cosmos Cheapsies operate a slightly different system. To comply with the regulations controlling inclusive holidays by air, Cosmos has organized a property letting agreement, contracting accommodation from the property owner or from an agent acting on the owner's behalf.

The loophole is that the traveller then acts as the agent of the owner, letting the property to Cosmos at a total rental of £1 for the duration of the holiday. This £1 is included in the price of the holiday and the client simply fills in a property letting agreement coupon in the brochure.

Another discount fare is the consolidation fare which is sold by agents. A small selection of these are listed in the chart. Consolidation fares are based on the bulk buying of seats by wholesalers who then sell off the seats individually. Flight frequencies are usually once a week and are sold as one, two or three week holidays.

The irony is that the International Air Transport Association, a cartel which fixes the prices of European airlines, keeps them at an artificially high figure, and which enforces these fares by law, is itself breaking the law by existing at all.

Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome forbids price fixing and control by two or more parties. This European law has already been enforced against manufacturers of whisky and fertilizers. Perhaps it will be the turn of the airlines next?

Diana Patti

HOW THE COST OF GETTING THERE CAN VARY

Destination	Tenerife	Palma	Athens	Faro	Malta	Rome
SCHEDULE AIRLINES						
Economy	378	226	203	251	308	284
Month excursion	low 269	139	230	217	176	246
	high 269	156	285	217	198	248
Apex	low 183	80	130	100	113	105
	high 183	109	150	149	135	127
Inclusive tour	low 185	185	170	170	150	145
	high 198	165	165	179	183	145
TOUR OPERATORS						
Cosmos Cheapsies	low 99	47	67	—	—	—
	high 125	72	88	—	—	—
Thomson Holidays	low 112	98	137	93	103	—
	high 138	98	144	120	130	—
TRAVEL AGENTS						
Buckingham	low 99	69	99	98	120	89
	high 99	69	99	98	120	89
Golden Jet	low 98	75	80	85	130	100
	high 130	85	120	115	130	114
Spexes Holidays	low 99	59	88	—	—	—
	high 95	64	109	—	—	—

All schedule airline figures, shown to the nearest £1, are for night flights and return journeys. Low and high season.

Midsummer Madness at Sticklepath fayre

The community of Sticklepath has been much exercised with preparations for the Great Grimpen-Mire Midsummer Fayre—the regular annual revelries of the village reflecting the theme of its new financial status on this occasion.

The fayre will be opened by Lord Trite of Cricklewood, President of the British Industrial League for Gainful Endeavour (BILGE), in spite of protests and a threat of mass picketing by Kevin Ludite, chief shop steward at Allied Elderberry Wines. As an oblique compromise, effigies of a wide range of public figures—such as the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the General Secretary of the TUC, the Chairman of the Stock Exchange and a number of particularly ill-performing unit trust managers—will be placed in the village stocks to be pelted by all and sundry on an ad hoc basis throughout the day.

A large number of sideshows are planned, including Guess the Weight of the Institutional Cash-Flow, Bowling for the Piggybank, Lucky Share Certificate Number and Roll-a-Kruggerand. The bottle stall is expected to carry a preponderance of tomato ketchup jars from the village stores, plus a large consignment of slightly

over-the-bill Broomfield-and-Rhubarb '58, kindly donated by Lieut-Col. Rudolph Grog-Revington, who discovered it the other day during spring-cleaning at Allied.

The white elephant stall will be manned, if that is the word,

by Lady Baskerville, and will comprise the famous collection of stuffed white elephants shot by Sir Henry Baskerville in South-east Asia in the 1950s. Meanwhile, at the Post Office, Mrs Ada Blount will be exhibiting another important local

collection—"National antique stamps through the years." The entire berry-blossom-filling and chuntering department Allied Elderberry come on view to the public just as the village wine will be stationed at the ditte tableau of nifty wry Dartmoor industry prop.

Other attractions include rides in the gulper at the Great Mire, the mine, a diorama cycle, and a spiral, by Miss Sibling's Senior Danc and an opportunity with the Treasury Economic Model and country off the rails one of two hundred at different ways in the pr

Test will be seen vicarage level for the time, at which the Inflationary Balloon also due to start. T minor Combined Cade will conclude the day's fest with the perform an allegorical pageant Triumph of Speculation Penury.

The Okehampton Cannon Squad of the Constabulary, under the command of Det Sergeant Black, will be on hand in any trouble.

Francis King

Investor's week

Gilt market outshines equities

Just as the FT index looked ready to plunge through the 400 barrier, along came a new account to breathe new life into equities—or so it appears.

For, although the index recovered from its 415.9 level at the end of the long Bank Holiday account, the actual increase in turnover was negligible. By yesterday, however, it had recovered to 428.5.

Jobbers and dealers alike continued to roam the floor of the market depressed by the talk of recession and squeezed companies' profits. The improvement was all technical, they moaned; or, putting it bluntly, a bear squeeze with jobbers short of stock was pushing prices up.

The gilt market was still benefiting from the influx of foreign money which has mopped up vast amounts of "tap" stock in recent weeks. But the announcement of another new "tap" last week to take advantage of the situation has been frowned upon, judging by the level of applications and subsequent trade.

Nevertheless, the market still had other attractions, including Mrs Thatcher's reference to a cut in minimum lending rate in the near future.

Despite the subsequent hangover the next morning, when the Treasury denied an imminent cut, most jobbers were able to muster a smile at the memory of Mrs Thatcher's performance.

Elsewhere in the market it was the talk of recession which dominated, as Lucas can confirm. Rumours of impending redundancies were reflected by the performance of the shares which drifted steadily downwards.

The confirmation later in the week that 3,000 jobs would be lost only served to accelerate the reaction pushing them down to 184p before they recovered to 197p.

ICI was another blue chip to suffer after bearish comment from brokers Heddewick, Stirling, Grunbarr. The City had not been expecting too much from the industrial giant this time round.

But Heddewick has gone one step further, predicting profits of £450m instead of £500m. The shares retreated cautiously and the rest of the market remained far from pleased.

With lending rate remaining at 17 per cent nor many companies are in a position to raise money by way of rights issues. But in the property sector—or

at least at the blue chip end of it—it can be different. Land Securities called for £108m cash this week. The announcement took everybody by surprise, not only because of the size, the biggest since ICI's cash call of £200m four years ago, but also because of the generous terms offered. In the event, the shares fell and upset others in the property sector.

The Derby on Wednesday came as a welcome interlude amid the bad news and gave jobbers the opportunity to

scurry around and bid lots of stock in which were short. It was also time for brokers Sheppa Chase to leak their views on the discount ho

The message was clear: high interest rates sell houses. Jobbers reacted shyly; down came share sharply and a cloud of tainty looks likely to over the rest of the session time to come.

Michael C

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Rises			
High	Low	Company	Change
183p	92 1/2p	Euro Ferries	17 1/2p to 150p
685p	124p	Lesmo	35p to 681p
213p	115p	Milford Docks	20p to 118p
207p	149p	Reed Int	20p to 187p
Falls			
118p	64p	Comst Radio	12p to 67p
179p	99p	Forminster	16p to 117p
416p	315p	ICI	8p to 358p
80p	54p	Jessel Tynbee	3p to 74p
342p	243p	Land Secs	23p to 310p

TAX FILE
Weekly updating service
simplifying tax for
businessmen
VALENTINE PLACE
LONDON SE1
Also Stand R453, Business
to Business Exhibition

حکومت الاصل

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS

year-old policy holders

Too young to be a parent's gift of £200 has been increased at the expense of the Revenue to a premium of £246.30.

This life assurance premium relief is allowed, however, only if the child is under the age of 12 before the policy is taken out. While a child can take a policy before then, subject, of course, to the agreement of a life office, the tax relief on the premium will not be allowed until the child reaches the age of 12.

For most life offices there is a problem that a child may wish to repudiate a policy arranged in his name, on reaching majority at the age of 18. As a result, many offices issuing policies to children under the age of 18 in "own life" form are not prepared to accept any dealings in the policy, such as surrender or even to allow the policy to mature, until the child reaches the age of 18.

One office with rather more freedom than others is the mutual Friends Provident Life Office. Under the authority of its own Act of Parliament a minor may (through his parent or guardian if under the age

of 16) arrange and give discharge for policies with the office.

As a result, Friends' Provident does not impose a minimum age below which a policy will not be issued. If required, a policy can mature before the age of 18 and in any event a policy can be surrendered before that age.

Nevertheless, a child does face some restrictions. While a policy can be surrendered at any time it cannot be assigned, nor can a loan be granted, before the age of 18.

Of course, policies can be useful, but there is no point in rushing into this solely for the tax advantages. By all means let a grandparent contribute money, in view of the recovery of standard rate tax which can be made, but unless there are special reasons for taking a policy at an early age there is little point in a child paying premiums before the age of 12, at which point the life assurance premium relief will be allowed.

John Drummond

Italian funds set the pace

and overseas funds make the running. In the last 12 months the rate of return on Italian funds has been 10.5 per cent, compared with 8.5 per cent for overseas funds.

The Italian funds have been the most successful of the last 12 months, with the rate of return on Italian funds being 10.5 per cent, compared with 8.5 per cent for overseas funds.

rust performance

show the value on June 1 of £100 invested 12 months ago as years ago (8), income reinvested and based on offer-to-

Trustee Sav Bk/Scot	99.5	126.7
T&G/Vanguard Growth	99.4	132.9
Barings Bros Stratgrn	99.3	140.5
A-Hambro/Accountant	99.0	140.6
Antony Gibbs Privates	98.9	152.1
Barclays/Unicorn Cap	98.5	140.8
SeP/Capital	98.5	145.9
Stevens Financial Cap	98.5	164.1
Seaboard Capital	98.5	164.2
Arbuthnot Growth	97.9	147.8
Equity and Law	97.4	133.2
Garmore Inc/As Cap	97.3	121.8
Trustee Sav Bk/Gen	96.7	143.9
Seab Capital	95.9	133.2
Garmore British	95.9	151.5
Wilder Growth/Accum	94.6	121.4
T&G/Marborough	94.7	107.0
Nat West/Growth	94.6	115.5
British American	94.6	133.2
Britannia Assen	93.3	139.4
New Court Equity	93.2	122.4
Abbey/Capital	91.3	129.5
Seaboard Technology	90.6	133.2
Cap/Sec	90.0	131.2
A-Hambro OT&S Earn	89.7	118.5
Arbuthnot Gtrns	89.0	117.2
London/Growth	87.2	143.8
London Valley Spec Sits	87.1	105.4
London Wall Cap Gro	78.1	103.4
Choularton Growth	67.5	99.7

FINANCIAL		A	B
Barclays/Unicorn Fin	118.8	150.1	
James Finlay Inv Trst	113.2	153.1	
Britannia Unit Fd Inv	112.1	155.7	
Target/Financial	111.6	157.0	
Oceanic/Financial	110.2	180.8	
Seaboard Prop Shares	107.2	141.1	
M&C/Fits	107.2	218.3	
Schlesinger Prop Shrs	107.2	-	
Hill Samuel/Financial	106.5	158.0	
Seaboard Prop Trst	105.0	138.8	
Henderson/Fin & ITU	104.0	178.0	
Target/Investment Trst	102.2	147.2	
Britannia Fin Sacs	101.8	163.3	
Seaboard Growth	101.3	163.3	
Nat West/Financial	101.3	133.3	
S&P/I.T.U.	100.7	138.3	
S&P/Scotias	100.7	125.1	
Seaboard Ex Inv	99.2	-	
Chierford Pref & Gilt	99.2	-	
Arbuthnot Fin & Prop	98.3	159.2	
S&P/Financial	97.7	157.8	
Target/Preference	97.4	116.0	
Abbey/Invest Trst Fd	96.9	127.4	
Alleyard Growth	92.5	122.3	
Alleyard Hart & Ross Gt	92.5	122.3	
Tyndall/Preference	94.8	129.6	
Kleinwort Benson Fts	94.6	-	
Schlesinger I.T.U.	93.9	-	
Cover Pref & Gilt	93.9	-	
Schlesinger Pref & Gilt	93.5	-	
Arbuthnot Pref & F Is	91.2	142.2	
Arbuthnot Growth	90.3	21.9	
Kay Fixed Interest	87.9	104.2	

INCOME		A	B
Kleinwort Bussn Hl Yld	99.3	149.5	
G.T. Income	98.3	149.5	
Mutual Income	98.2	142.2	
Seaboard Drayton Inv	97.1	142.5	
Mayflower Income	96.7	134.4	
M&C/Conv Income	96.6	177.8	
Seaboard Growth	96.6	142.2	
Schroder Wags/Inv	95.2	147.8	
Allied/High Income	95.2	148.3	
A-Hambro Equity Inv	94.9	141.2	
Seaboard Growth	94.9	141.2	
M&C/High Income	94.6	147.4	
Barclays/Unicorn Inv	94.7	147.7	
Cabot Income	94.4	147.4	
Seaboard Growth Divs	94.4	125.8	
Provin Life/High Inc	94.2	171.0	
Nat West/Income	94.2	121.6	
Britannia L& Grits	94.1	133.2	
Barclays/Unicorn Ex Inv	94.1	139.7	
Middle Mount High Inc	93.4	142.2	
Norcan Growth	93.3	125.3	
Britannia Nat Hl Inv	92.3	129.3	
Discretionary	92.8	167.6	
Trustee Savings Bk/Inv	92.3	140.0	
Alban Income	91.9	141.7	
Bridge Income	91.9	143.1	
Tyndall Income	91.8	141.8	
Seaboard Income	91.5	132.5	
L&C Income	91.4	146.9	
Arbuthnot High Yield	91.4	121.6	
S&P/Scotias	91.3	125.7	
Seaboard Growth	91.3	125.7	
Hill Samuel Income	91.3	122.0	
Garmore Income	91.1	150.9	
Franklington Income	91.1	140.3	
Seaboard Growth	91.1	140.3	
Mutual/High Yield	90.9	124.0	
M&C/Extra Yield	90.7	136.6	
James Finlay High Inc	90.5	115.7	
Seaboard Growth	90.5	115.7	
Antony Gibbs Income	90.1	139.4	
S&P/High Yield	89.7	116.6	
Britannia Extra Inc	89.6	133.0	
Royal Bank Income	89.6	106.9	
Seaboard/High Inc	89.6	150.3	
T&G/Wickmore Divt	89.5	129.1	
Canlife Income	89.5	122.3	
Middleton Drayton Hl Yld	89.5	121.9	
S&P/Income	89.5	121.0	
Seaboard High Yield	88.8	128.7	
S&P/Select Income	88.8	128.7	
Target Income	88.4	117.1	
Seab Income	87.7	125.6	
Grieveson & Hl Yld	87.9	119.9	
Abbey Income	87.8	115.4	

Figures supplied by Planned Savings	
N1 99.0.	

Kraft Inc and Dart Industries have not yet reached an agreement on the terms of the exchange for the Dart preferred stock which is convertible on a one-for-one basis into Dart common stock.

However, the two companies expect that each share of Dart preferred stock will be exchanged in the merger for one share of common stock of the company.

Issue price in parentheses. * \$5 dividend.
 Issued by tender. a Nil paid, b \$10 paid, c \$20
 paid, d \$20 paid, f Fully paid, g 50¢ paid, h 10¢
 paid.

duced a total of 832 contracts. Following the rights

[illegible]

1979-80	1978-79	1977-78	1976-77	1975-76	1974-75	1973-74	1972-73	1971-72	1970-71	1969-70	1968-69	1967-68	1966-67	1965-66	1964-65	1963-64	1962-63	1961-62	1960-61	1959-60	1958-59	1957-58	1956-57	1955-56	1954-55	1953-54	1952-53	1951-52	1950-51	1949-50	1948-49	1947-48	1946-47	1945-46	1944-45	1943-44	1942-43	1941-42	1940-41	1939-40	1938-39	1937-38	1936-37	1935-36	1934-35	1933-34	1932-33	1931-32	1930-31	1929-30	1928-29	1927-28	1926-27	1925-26	1924-25	1923-24	1922-23	1921-22	1920-21	1919-20	1918-19	1917-18	1916-17	1915-16	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13	1911-12	1910-11	1909-10	1908-09	1907-08	1906-07	1905-06	1904-05	1903-04	1902-03	1901-02	1900-01	1899-00	1898-99	1897-98	1896-97	1895-96	1894-95	1893-94	1892-93	1891-92	1890-91	1889-90	1888-89	1887-88	1886-87	1885-86	1884-85	1883-84	1882-83	1881-82	1880-81	1879-80	1878-79	1877-78	1876-77	1875-76	1874-75	1873-74	1872-73	1871-72	1870-71	1869-70	1868-69	1867-68	1866-67	1865-66	1864-65	1863-64	1862-63	1861-62	1860-61	1859-60	1858-59	1857-58	1856-57	1855-56	1854-55	1853-54	1852-53	1851-52	1850-51	1849-50	1848-49	1847-48	1846-47	1845-46	1844-45	1843-44	1842-43	1841-42	1840-41	1839-40	1838-39	1837-38	1836-37	1835-36	1834-35	1833-34	1832-33	1831-32	1830-31	1829-30	1828-29	1827-28	1826-27	1825-26	1824-25	1823-24	1822-23	1821-22	1820-21	1819-20	1818-19	1817-18	1816-17	1815-16	1814-15	1813-14	1812-13	1811-12	1810-11	1809-10	1808-09	1807-08	1806-07	1805-06	1804-05	1803-04	1802-03	1801-02	1800-01	1799-00	1798-99	1797-98	1796-97	1795-96	1794-95	1793-94	1792-93	1791-92	1790-91	1789-90	1788-89	1787-88	1786-87	1785-86	1784-85	1783-84	1782-83	1781-82	1780-81	1779-80	1778-79	1777-78	1776-77	1775-76	1774-75	1773-74	1772-73	1771-72	1770-71	1769-70	1768-69	1767-68	1766-67	1765-66	1764-65	1763-64	1762-63	1761-62	1760-61	1759-60	1758-59	1757-58	1756-57	1755-56	1754-55	1753-54	1752-53	1751-52	1750-51	1749-50	1748-49	1747-48	1746-47	1745-46	1744-45	1743-44	1742-43	1741-42	1740-41	1739-40	1738-39	1737-38	1736-37	1735-36	1734-35	1733-34	1732-33	1731-32	1730-31	1729-30	1728-29	1727-28	1726-27	1725-26	1724-25	1723-24	1722-23	1721-22	1720-21	1719-20	1718-19	1717-18	1716-17	1715-16	1714-15	1713-14	1712-13	1711-12	1710-11	1709-10	1708-09	1707-08	1706-07	1705-06	1704-05	1703-04	1702-03	1701-02	1700-01	1699-00	1698-99	1697-98	1696-97	1695-96	1694-95	1693-94	1692-93	1691-92	1690-91	1689-90	1688-89	1687-88	1686-87	1685-86	1684-85	1683-84	1682-83	1681-82	1680-81	1679-80	1678-79	1677-78	1676-77	1675-76	1674-75	1673-74	1672-73	1671-72	1670-71	1669-70	1668-69	1667-68	1666-67	1665-66	1664-65	1663-64	1662-63	1661-62	1660-61	1659-60	1658-59	1657-58	1656-57	1655-56	1654-55	1653-54	1652-53	1651-52	1650-51	1649-50	1648-49	1647-48	1646-47	1645-46	1644-45	1643-44	1642-43	1641-42
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§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

* Ex dividend. * Ea all. * Forecast dividend. * Corrected price. * Interim payment passed. * Price at suspension. * Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. * Bid for company. * Pre-merger figures. * Forecast earnings. * Capital distribution. * Ex ratio. * Ex ratio share split. * Tax free. * Price adjusted for late dealings. * Significant data.

Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing



Pro-tek Eyeguards with narrow, lens-less apertures, small enough to prevent a squash ball hitting the eye. About £5.95 from Harrods, Lillywhites, Selfridges and branches of Bernard's World of Sport.

Perhaps the only people who are not short-sighted about eye protection in sport are the myopic. Being unable to see 12 inches in front of your nose without spectacles makes you wary of anything that might damage your lenses. I certainly was never happy on skis until I started to wear contact lenses. The idea of falling on my face and having glass in my eyes had a distinctly unattractive effect on my turns.

Now, of course, plastic lenses remove a great deal of the worry but they are not enough protection for fast ball games, particularly squash. Last November, in *The Times*, Trevor Fishlock drew attention to the fact that a squash ball is small enough to slip between the eye's only defences of brow and cheek and, travelling at speed, could burst the eyeball.

At that time, there were no eye protectors on the British market specifically designed to prevent such accidents. Now there are at least two, a padded visor without a lens and a spectacle-type protector with polycarbonate lenses.

The visor, called the Pro-tek Eye-

guard, has been sold in America for four years. It fits closely round the eyes and is made of clear polycarbonate which will not shatter if struck—riot shields are made from the same material. An adjustable elastic strap keeps it in place and pads relieve any pressure on the brows and nose. The aperture is small enough to prevent a squash ball striking the eye.

The spectacles are a recent development called Action Eyes by Bausch & Lomb. They are in an ophthalmic frame with a band at the back to keep it in place, and both frame and lens are made of polycarbonate. As with the Eyeguards, they are claimed to be shatter-proof, the lenses are mounted in deep seated grooves of industrial safety design.

I tried both eye protectors on squash-playing friends—I should emphasize that eye damage can be caused in other sports, too, but I am concentrating on squash because of the size and speed of the ball and because of the increasing number of people who play it.

The verdict was that the Action



Not all mass-produced prints fill me with much hope for the future of our suburban walls. Could you have faced Tretchikoff's green lady over your breakfast bacon day after day? I would have been reduced to weak tea and dry toast long since—yet it sold and sold.

At Boots, however, there is now a very attractive collection of prints in rather subtle moody colours and with a distinct Art Deco look about them. They are by a 24-year-old Chinese artist, Shao, who studied at the University of California and has had exhibitions at Santa Barbara, Houston and the Indiana museum.

There are six pictures, all of women in various flowing gowns and poses, and grouped together in twos or threes, they make very pleasing decor, plainly and elegantly framed. The sizes are 16½ in square, or 32 x 16½ in, and priced at £14.95 and £29.95 respectively. They are at all larger branches of Boots.



Action Eyes by Bausch and Lomb, one of the newest developments in eye protection with shatterproof polycarbonate lenses. About £13 from Harrods and Lillywhites.

Photographs by Peter Akhurst

They deny that they are complacent about injuries and are in fact in regular communication with hospitals and manufacturers to try to make the game as safe as possible. They are well aware of the dangers involved in the ball flying off a racket at an oblique angle and acknowledge that it is not uncommon for the racket to fly out of the player's hand.

But they point out that in the United States, where many people are seriously injured at squash—despite the rule in some clubs that eye guards must be worn—a ball made of rubber but with the consistency of a golf ball is used. They also say that some eye guards being promoted for squash were specifically designed for racketball and would still allow the smaller ball used in squash to pass beyond the defences.

If you are in any doubt about the wisdom of eye protection you should consider the opinion of Mr James L. Kennerley Banks, ophthalmic surgeon and consultant to the Western Ophthalmic Hospital, Marylebone.

"People think glasses can be dangerous, but any form of glasses prevent more injuries than they cause. Those who wear prescription glasses should have plastic lenses for all sports, and even for those who do not need glasses eye protection is also very important."

"I have had to deal with many sports accidents and obviously the ones involving a hard ball—golf, hockey and squash—are the most dangerous. Water polo is another, but many players wear swimming goggles which give protection. Squash injuries are nearly always severe and in my experience have nothing to do with the player's ability. I have known a first class player lose his eye."

In showing you the two eye protectors illustrated I am not taking sides. Both have minor disadvantages, but until the perfect eye protector is developed £5 or £13 seems very little to pay for the protection of something as precious as an eye. It may never happen, but if you should be one of the unlucky ones you can't go back and change your mind.

Patchwork enthusiasts be glad to know that Antiques are running a few series of daytime and eve classes this month. Sub include American Patch by Joan Lask, Hawaiian (ing by Alyne Hamilton, Cabin Workshop by Joan and English Patchwork by Michele Walker. For details places available, dates course fees, contact Antiques, 21 Chalk Farm London NW1. Telephone 485 1239.

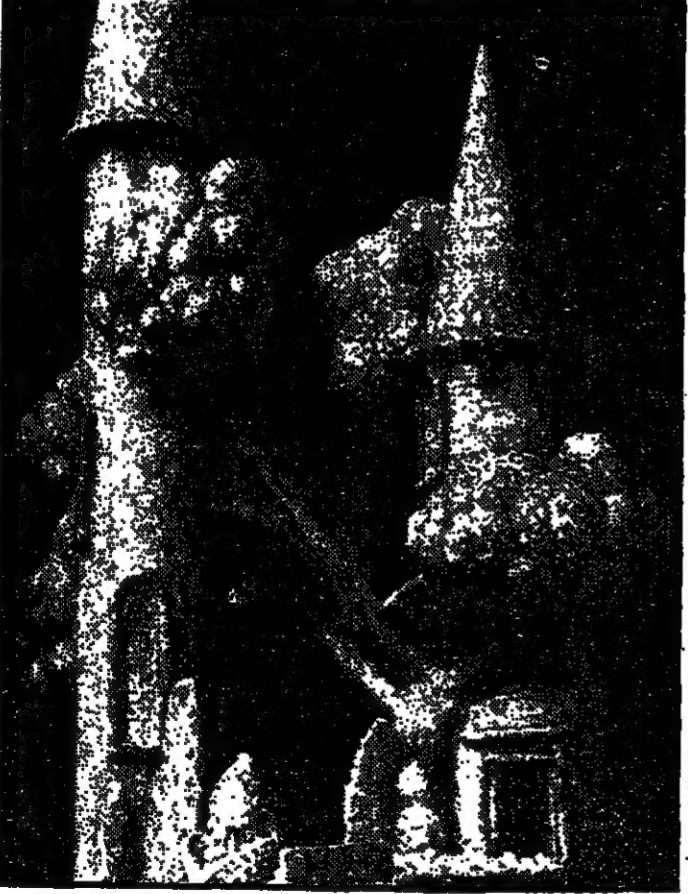
In Hampshire, the Straw Faye exhibition of antique contemporary English American patchwork quilt now being held in the me barn through the shop at bridge. It continues until 14.

Two hundred quilts from over the world will be at the fourth international exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, Gloucestershire, in aid of church restoration English and Welsh quilts specialty and many will be for sale. The exhibition will run from June 14-22 from 10.30 am daily. You can make special event by travelling the Gloucester Packet, which regularly from Baker's in Gloucester docks. For telephone Gloucester 416.

When I wash my own which is very fine, I blow it with a brush and a hand, but it never has quite the bounce that my hair achieves. Occasionally I use a booster with a heated tong and when I feel energetic I use heated rollers. Now I have been educated to a new toy. It is rounded brush which something like a curling with a clip along one side roll up and blow dry with drier.

The thing I liked ab was that it did give me to the fine hair on my than I manage to achieve with blow drying. Perb would not be necessary people with thick, heavy hair. For £1.95 it makes a addition to my battery of fure. It is called the Tris Curler and is exclusive Boots.

Two for lightweight travelling—below a holdall in parachute nylon with a zip top, £5.99 in red, blue, yellow or black. Left, a holdall garment bag for men which opens flat to accommodate suits. £15.99 in black or blue, both trimmed with tan. Both from branches of Salisbury.

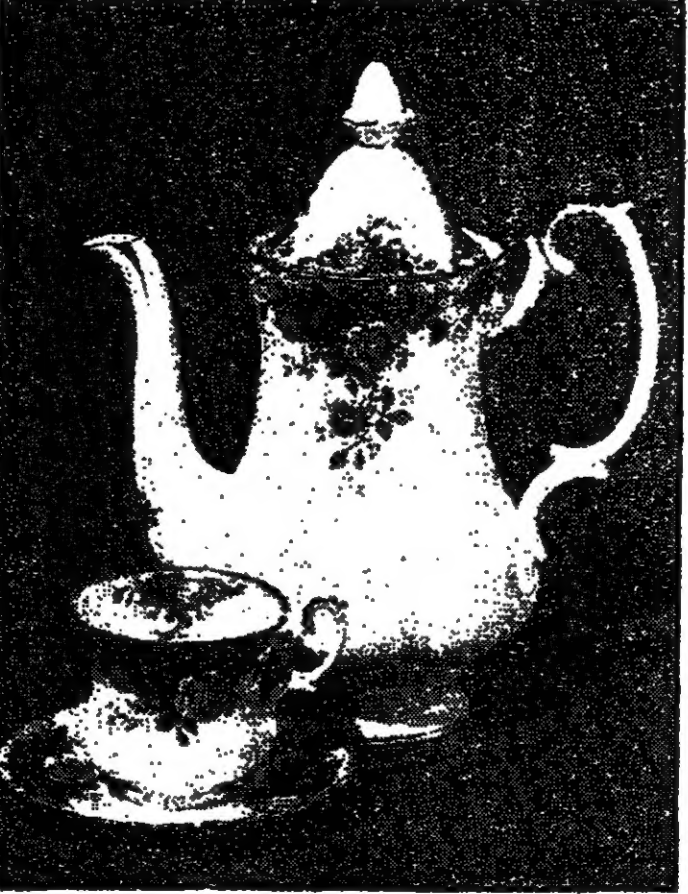


Fantasy Castle in the air in papier mache by Ann Jasper. £350 at Craft Village at Bourne's in Oxford Street, London, W1.

a turntable so that you have the feeling of being able to go right into and through them and you really wouldn't be surprised to come face to face with Cinderella fleeing down the steps or Rapunzel leaning from a turret.

The price, around £350, represents a great deal of time and effort and you may still say, but what is it for? Perhaps though, some of you may agree with me that, just occasionally, it is pleasant to have something totally useless in one's life—something that is sheer fantasy and follows absolutely no preconceived ideas of what a decorative object should be. View them as a child might, get your imagination ticking and you might see what I mean.

Ann Jasper's work is on view on the fourth floor of Bourne's Craft Village. Other inquiries to the artist at 19, Stow Road, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire.



country that makes marketing men's eyes revolve like fruit machines and this is Doulton's fastest growing market. They recently won an order from Singapore Airlines, who are replacing their Japanese china with Royal Doulton.

From such a wide range it is impossible to choose a design that will please everybody, but the one that seems to have come closest to doing so is Royal Albert's Old Country Roses, the best-selling design in the world. Last year they reached their 50 millionth piece.

Royal Albert have been producing their country garden china since 1893. The designer of this particular pattern, Harold Holdcroft, joined the company in 1934 with the specific aim of producing a best-seller.

"We decided to incorporate all the ingredients that we knew would be acceptable—richness of colour, softness of colour, good quality and good value."

The design of rich red roses and pale tea roses, green leaves and gold spriggle was not acclaimed enthusiastically by the shopkeepers when it was introduced in 1962, but Royal Albert were not daunted. They positively forced the design on their retailers with an aggressive

Above centre: Old Country Roses by Royal Albert, the world's best-selling bone china pattern. The coffee pot costs about £15 and the tea cup and saucer about £4. Full dinner, tea and coffee services are available. Stockists include Lawleys of Newcastle-under-Lyme and Regent Street, London, W1, and also Selfridges, London W1.



Extrufix and it has changed my life. With a name like that, might imagine I was into snuffing. You would be w Extrufix is a waste rack although it cannot be as beautiful I have drawn for you."

It fixes to the back cupboard door and is a wire rack with a tray bottom and a wire mouth a plastic lid on the top, of plastic bin liners sits on tray and you pull each on and tuck the open end of the mouth. When a bag is simply lift it out, tear the perforation and tuck new bag into place.

There are more stream, rubbish containers, but take up a lot more room than this one, which fits snugly to the back of an av sink unit door and still a room for a bucket. Including your first roll of liners, it is a good less expensive than other on flip top bins. Replace rolls of bags are available 99p for 30.

Stockists for the Extrufix include Keynans at Alton, Canterbury, W1 and Norwich. Supasave Mansfield, Chesterfield, Burnley and Cragford at Ford, Minworth and East Near London you can find Dodge City, New Malden, Sandel Perkins, Hampton, Hyde House, Colindale, don, NW9 6LG.

I wonder if papier mache would have had such a vogue if we had bothered to translate it? Cheved paper does seem to lack a certain durability, not to say digestibility; it's no wonder it went out of fashion after Victorian times.

It had not occurred to me that anyone was now using it seriously as an art form until I met Ann Jasper. Until then I had assumed that it was largely used for theatrical props, Chinese masks and keeping the children occupied on wet afternoons.

But Ann, originally a theatre designer, graduated to papier mache after a spell at the College of Furniture four years ago. She decided that interior design was not really what she wanted to do and turned instead to making little houses, rather on the lines of the eighteenth century china cottage.

Then suddenly, she says, it just took off, getting bigger and bigger in her attempts to see just what could be done with paper on a large scale; and so she achieved her first "castle in the air".

She has a famous precedent in Charles Frederick Bielefeld, one of the most remarkable papier mache makers on record, who had his works at 15 Wellington Street, Covent Garden. When the House of Lords was erected in the Pantheon, Grocers Hall, after the fire of 1834 he made a canopy for the throne there. Later he made a canopy for the state bed at Chatsworth.

Fifty years earlier, according to Jane Toller in her book *Papier Mache in England and America*, a man called Charles Lewis Ducrest of Jermyn Street had taken out a patent for making paper for the building of houses, bridges, ships, boats and all sorts of wheeled carriages, sedan chairs, tables and book cases, either of paper or wood and iron covered with paper.

He laid down specifications for constructing houses as a series of boxes, each made separately and joined to its neighbour by iron bolts—a sort of early pre-fab.

Bielefeld went one better. He made a whole village for a man who wanted portable houses to take to Australia. Ten cottages and a ten-room villa were built and assembled at Staines for shipment.

He had not reckoned with our English weather. Torrential rain flooded the place and left the paper village standing in two feet of water. But such was the strength of Bielefeld's pasted paper that it withstood its soaking and went off to Australia undamaged.

The use of papier mache was certainly not confined to Victorian times, from which we still see examples of trays, screens and boxes. It was used in cabinet making in the seventeenth century and extensively for applied mouldings in the eighteenth—a method used by Robert Adam in 1756.

Japanized papier mache, at first known as *Pontypool*, were became well established in Birmingham and Wolverhampton, which remained the centre of the trade. At the height of trade between 1850 and 1855 they were using 300 tons of raw material annually at £22 a ton. Apprentices worked 60 hours a week with the possibility of 20 hours overtime at a penny to fivepence an hour. And it was not until 1860 that trade began to wane because the heavy crinolines tended to knock the delicate little chairs and tables flying.

Ann Jasper has no illusions about the time that needs to be devoted to her craft and no doubt sympathizes with those overworked apprentices. She makes her basic shapes with tubes and layers of paper and paste and then covers them with papier mache pulp, which all has to dry before she can paint them.

The resulting castles are enchanting. They are made on

Until recently I had always considered myself an inveterate gambler. If you let me loose on Brighton pier I could feed every fruit machine until I was sick and still not realize that the whole ridiculously enjoyable process involved actual money. As I assumed my reaction would be the same in a real casino I had until now avoided them in case my weakness would out.

But then I had the opportunity to disprove my theory. I was in Deauville, visited the casino there—and found the experience totally depressing. There was none of the excitement, none of the despair that Maugham led me to expect with his stories of a gambler. "Watch the other people and find the one who is desperate to win. He never does, so bid against him."

No, none of that. The overpowering sensation that hung between the low-slung lights and the disintegrating smoke was boredom. Two men in navy blazers and cavalry twills were sauntering from table to table, placing a few £100 chips and wandering off again, not even waiting to watch their win. Chips spawned all over the table. Win or lose, it was a matter

of total indifference to them. One won £5,000 in a single throw and simply shrugged.

Obviously neither of these gentlemen had read *The Reluctant Money-Minder* published by Whitner Windward and written by Sheila Black, my predecessor, whom you all enjoyed so much.

"Always do what makes you happy," she says. "Don't gamble for its own sake but as an adjunct to an evening out or a social occasion."

The whole book is written in a light and entertaining vein and considering that some chapters deal with pensions, unit trusts and stocks and shares, that's quite an achievement. It is packed with enormously practical information clearly set out and easy to understand even by people like me who need an idiot's guide to a ten times table.

"You need this book," says Sheila Black in her introduction. "because you cannot live without money any more than you can live without love, friendship and people. You need this book because there are so few books on money but plenty on love, friendship and people."

And all you need to buy it is £5.95.

There is no doubt that many of our traditional potteries produce quality goods which can be described as the best of British. Each has particular specialities which are appreciated throughout the world.

Among them, Royal Doulton Tableware are the largest, with 19 factories and about 130 shops. The names under their banner are Royal Crown Derby, Doulton, Minton, Royal Albert, Beswick and Webb Corbett.

Despite the difficult international trading climate the company last year sold £1.5m of china to West Germany, a market coveted by all tableware manufacturers. Japan is another

صكذآ من الاصل

